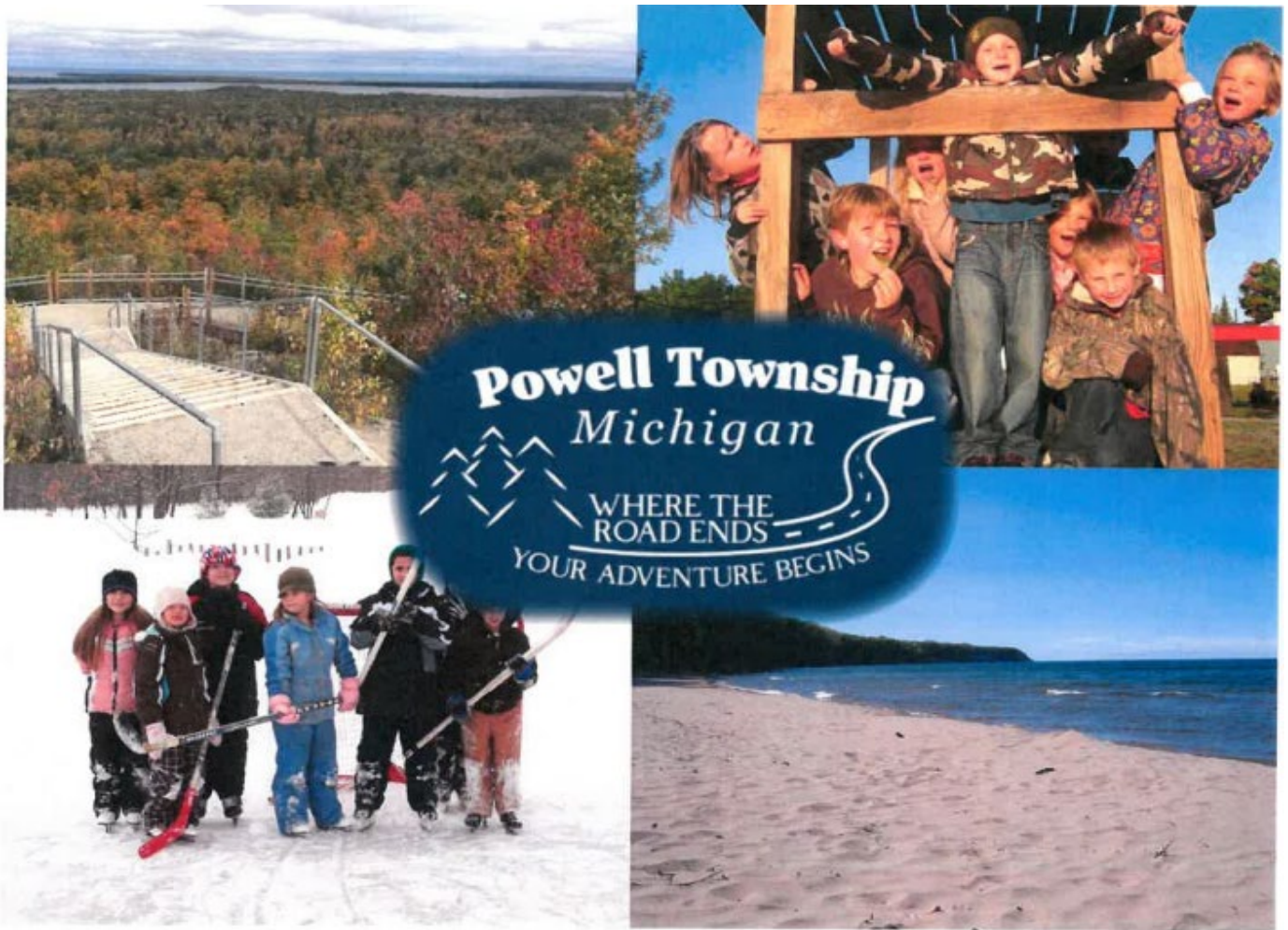


Powell Township Parks & Recreation Plan

.....
2026 – 2030



Powell Township
Michigan
WHERE THE
ROAD ENDS
YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS

Powell Township Recreation Plan

2026 – 2030

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Adopted to the Township Board on XX, 2025

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1

Introduction

This Parks & Recreation Plan serves as a guide for the upkeep and future development of parks and recreational facilities for the community of Powell Township. Originally initiated by the Powell Township Board of Trustees upon the recommendation of the Powell Township Recreation Department, this plan represents our community's vision for outdoor recreation from 2026 to 2030.

Powell Township's natural beauty and abundant recreational resources are central to our community's identity and quality of life. With approximately 45 miles of Lake Superior shoreline, pristine forests, and diverse water resources, our township provides exceptional opportunities for outdoor recreation year-round. This plan aims to preserve and enhance these resources while making them accessible to residents and visitors alike.

The development of this plan follows a collaborative process involving township officials, the Recreation Department, and extensive community input. Through surveys and public meetings, we have identified priorities that reflect the diverse recreational interests of our community members across all age groups and abilities. The process also considered



the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommendations to ensure alignment with state guidelines and grant eligibility requirements.

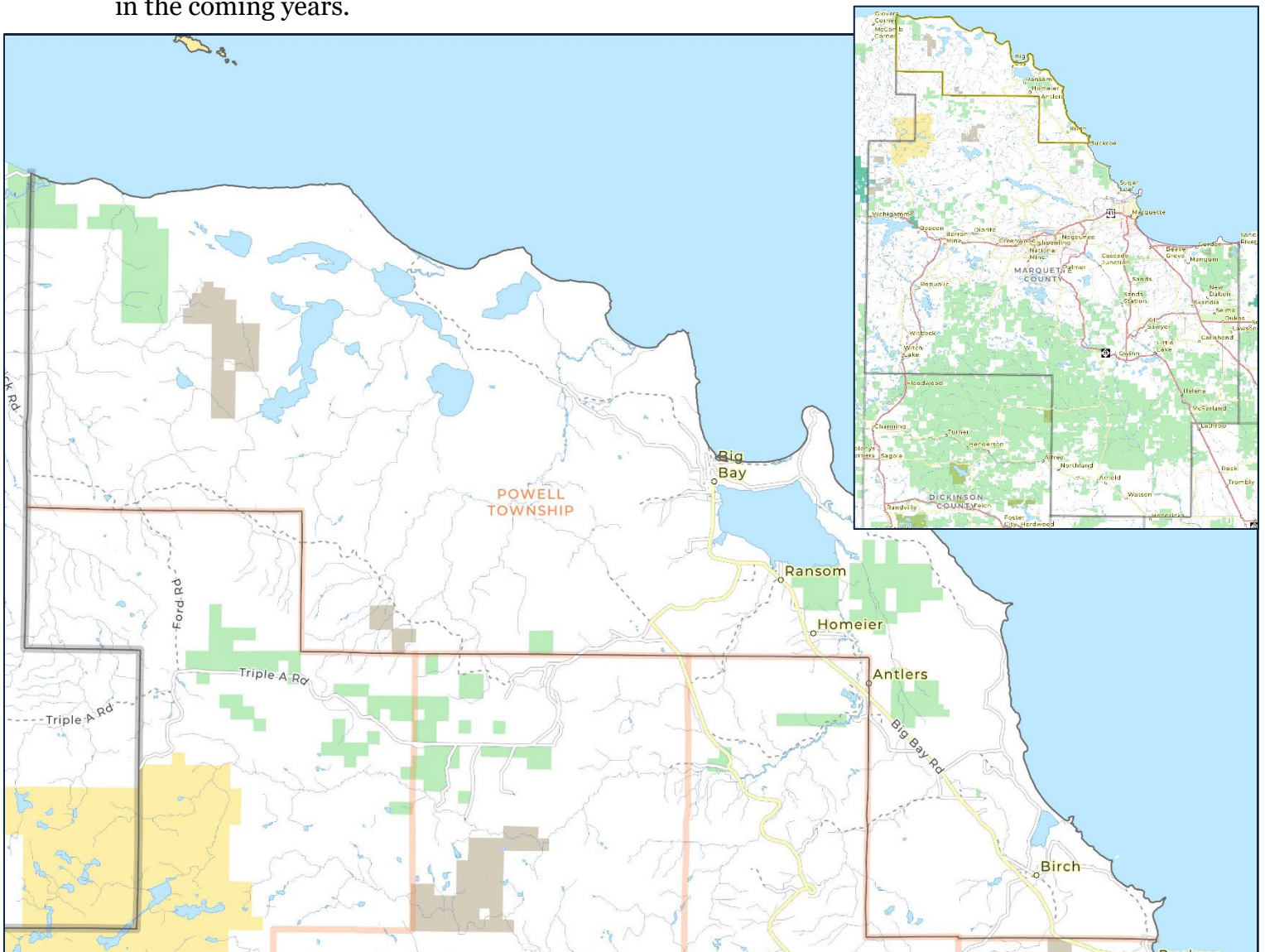
Five-year recreation plans, developed in accordance with DNR requirements, make communities eligible to apply for grant assistance to improve their public parks and recreation facilities. These competitive grants offer significant financial support to communities working to enhance their recreational assets with limited resources.



Powell Township has historically been successful in securing and administering grants from multiple sources, with recent projects including improvements at Burns Landing, Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook, and Draver Park. In addition to Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grants, the township has received funding from federal programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Transportation Alternatives Program, Community Development Block Grants, and Federal Trail Grants, as well as specialized funding through Historical Preservation Grants, Land Acquisition Grants, and Conservation Grants.

This updated plan builds upon previous accomplishments while addressing emerging needs and opportunities. It contains a comprehensive description of the community, an overview of the parks and recreation administrative structure and budget, and an inventory of existing recreational facilities. This background information provides context for the goals and objectives developed with public input. The plan concludes with an action program that identifies specific projects, timelines, and funding sources for implementation over the next five years.

By investing strategically in our recreational infrastructure, Powell Township aims to enhance the quality of life for residents, support sustainable tourism, and protect our natural resources for future generations. This plan will guide township officials as they make decisions about recreational priorities, grant applications, and funding allocations in the coming years.



2

Community Description

For the purposes of this plan, the "community" is defined as the area encompassed by Powell Township's political boundaries.



Powell Township is the northernmost township in Marquette County, located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The township encompasses approximately 162 square miles of land Yellow (with a total of 170.4 square miles including water bodies). It is bordered by Baraga County to the west and Lake Superior to the north and east, with approximately 45 miles of Lake Superior shoreline.

The township's diverse landscape includes the rugged Huron Mountains, which form a significant portion of the western area. This dramatic terrain, along with numerous inland lakes, rivers, forests, and wetlands, creates a pristine natural setting that defines the character of the community. The main settlement is the community of Big Bay, located at the end of County Road 550, approximately 25 miles northwest of Marquette.

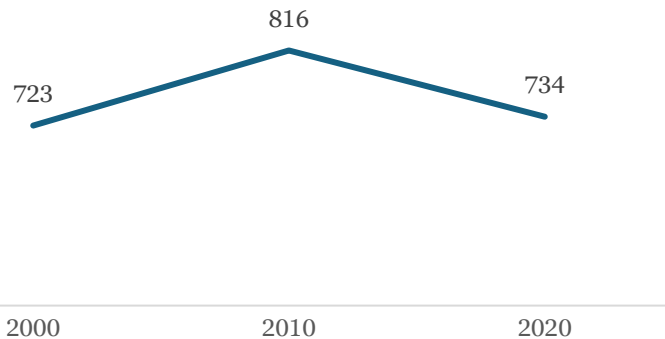
Powell Township was established in 1904. Like many communities in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the township's development was closely tied to the natural resources available in the area. Logging and wood product industries were mainstays of the local economy throughout much of its history.

Throughout its history, Powell Township has maintained strong ties to its natural resources. Today, the township is known for its outdoor recreation opportunities, including hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, and winter sports. The community works to balance economic development with preservation of its unique natural environment and small-town character.

Powell Township owns and maintains several parks including Draver Park & Ballfield, Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook, Burns Landing, the Halfway Fire Hall Kids' Park, and the Old Halfway Ball Field. The township also maintains multiple trails within the Noquemanon Trail Network for year-round use, supporting sustainable tourism while preserving the authentic community spirit that makes Powell Township special.

Demographic Profile

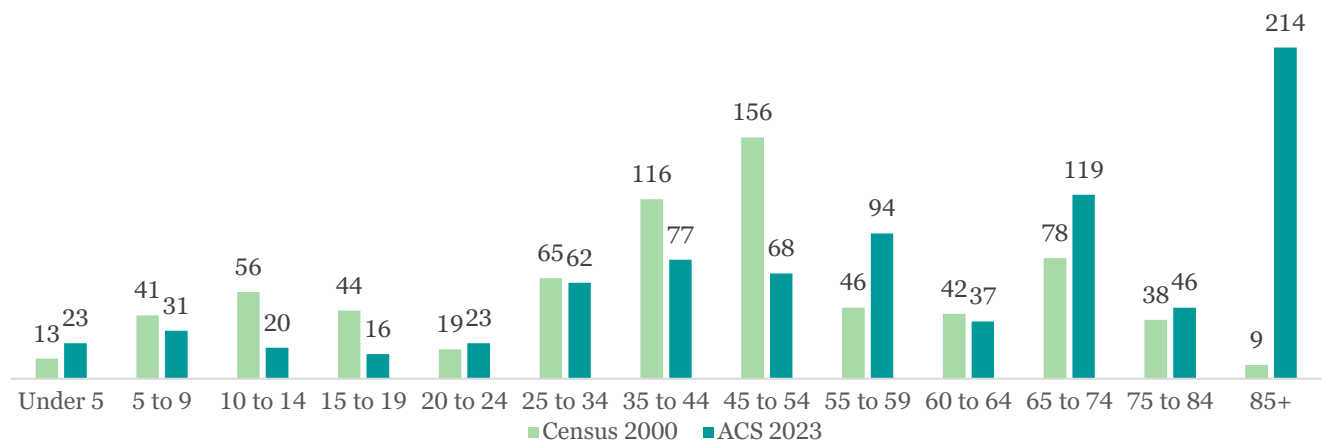
Powell Township has experienced fluctuations in population over recent decades. The population grew from 723 residents in 2000 to 816 residents in 2010, followed by a decline to 734 residents in 2020.



The most recent American Community Survey (ACS) estimates indicate a

rebound to 830 residents in 2023. However, the ACS is a statistical estimate based on a small sample, which produces results with a margin of error.

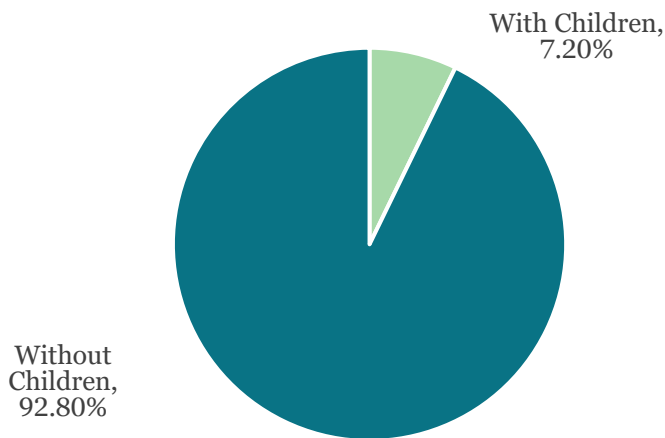
The demographic composition of Powell Township has shifted significantly since 2000, with a notable aging of the population.¹ The median age has increased from 45.6 years in 2000 to 60.1 years in 2023, reflecting a substantial demographic shift. This trend is evident in the age distribution changes:



¹ Data Note: Recent demographic figures (2023) are from the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. Unlike the decennial census, ACS data represents statistical estimates with associated margins of error, particularly for smaller population groups. While the overall demographic trends are reliable, specific numbers should be considered approximate.

- The 65-74 age group has grown from 78 residents in 2000 to 119 residents in 2023, and the number of residents aged 85 and older has increased dramatically from 9 to 214.
- The township has seen decreases in school-age children (ages 5-14) and working-age adults (35-54)

This demographic shift toward an older population has important implications for recreation planning, as facilities and programs must increasingly accommodate the needs and preferences of older adults while still providing opportunities for the declining but important youth population.



The township's 486 households show a distinct characteristic, with only 7.2% having children present, while 92.8% are households without children. This household composition further reflects the predominance of older adults and retirees within the community.

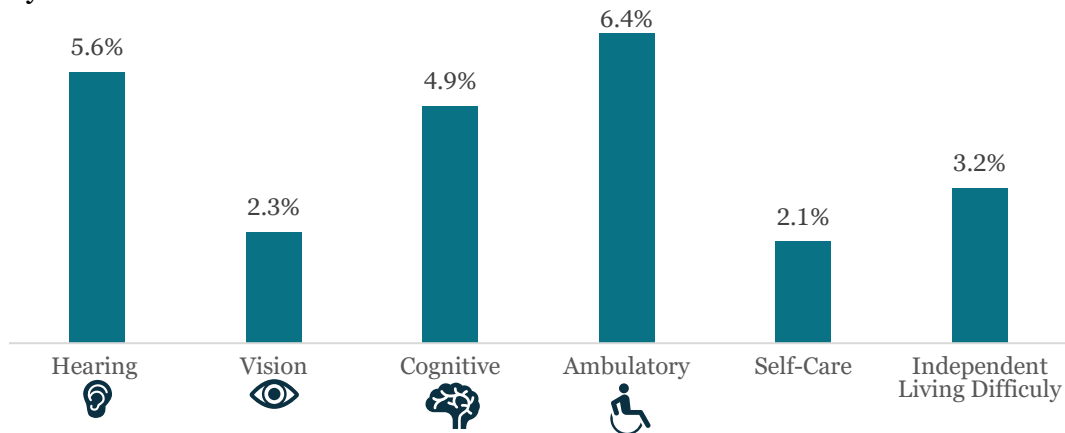
From an economic perspective, Powell Township's median household income of **\$46,310** is notably lower than both the Marquette County median (**\$62,115**) and the Michigan state median (**\$66,986**). This income disparity may affect residents' ability to pay for recreational opportunities and should be considered when planning fee structures and program costs.

The economic landscape of Powell Township presents significant challenges for residents that directly impact recreation planning priorities. According to the most recent data reported by United Way of Marquette County in June 2025, Powell Township has the highest percentage of households living below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold among all county subdivisions in Marquette County.

Approximately 71% of Powell Township households fall below the ALICE threshold, meaning they earn above the Federal Poverty Level but still cannot afford basic necessities like housing, food, childcare, transportation, healthcare, and technology. This is dramatically higher than the overall rate for Marquette County, where 24% of households fall below the ALICE threshold.

Understanding these demographic trends is essential for developing recreation facilities and programs that meet the current and future needs of Powell Township residents. The aging population in particular suggests a need for accessible facilities and activities that appeal to older adults, while still maintaining opportunities for the smaller but vital youth population.

Powell Township's commitment to inclusive recreation requires understanding the accessibility needs of all residents. According to recent data, 15.2% of the township's population experiences some type of disability, which is comparable to Marquette County's rate of 16.8%.



These statistics, coupled with the township's aging population, highlight the importance of designing recreational facilities and programs that accommodate varying levels of mobility and ability. Future park developments and improvements should incorporate universal design principles to ensure all residents can enjoy Powell Township's recreational offerings regardless of age or ability.

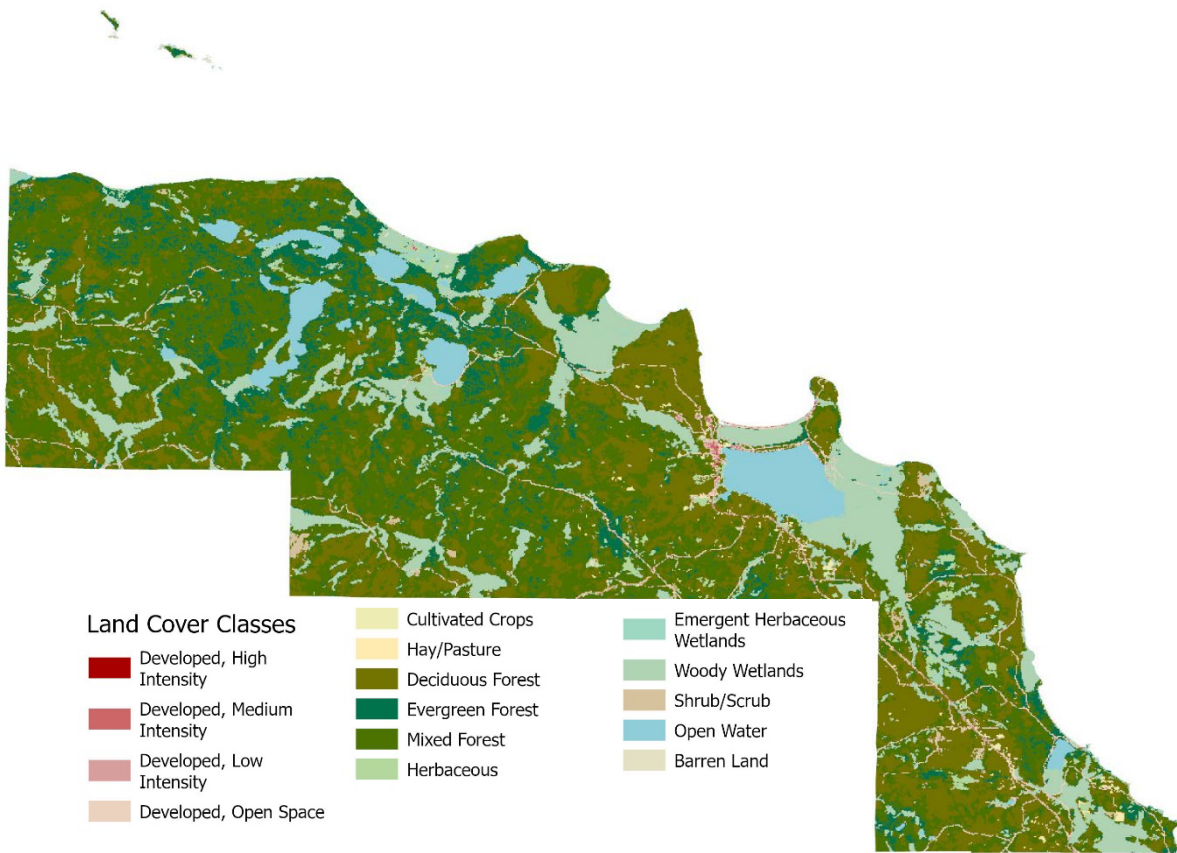
3

Natural Resource Inventory

Powell Township's landscape is defined by its diverse natural features, from rugged mountains to pristine shoreline. The township's natural resources provide the foundation for its recreational opportunities while supporting ecological diversity and sustainable economic activities.

Land Cover

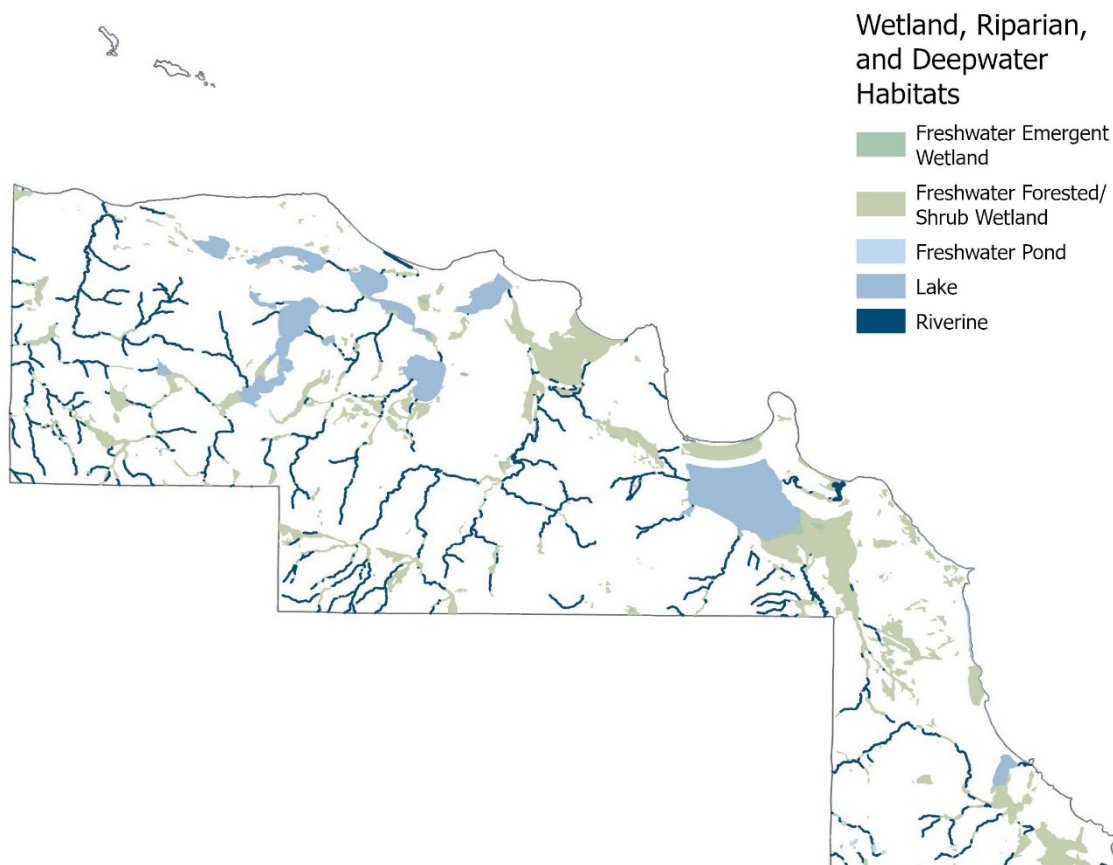
Powell Township is largely forested with miles of very high quality trout streams and old growth forest. illustrates that deciduous forest (dark green), evergreen forest (deeper green), and mixed forest (olive green) collectively dominate the landscape. The majority of this forested property is privately owned as large parcels managed for timber production. Many parcels are enrolled in the Commercial Forest Act and are available to the public for recreation. A number of other large land holdings also contribute to the pristine nature of the Township's land cover, including the Huron Mountain Club and the Yellow Dog Community Forest.



Wetland areas, classified as emergent herbaceous wetlands and woody wetlands, are scattered throughout the township, particularly along the Lake Superior shoreline and around inland water bodies. Developed areas, shown in red and pink shades, represent only a small fraction of the township's land area, indicating the rural and natural character of the community.

Hydrology and Wetlands

The township's water resources are visible in the map below that depicts Wetland, Riparian, and Deepwater Habitats. This map shows the township's extensive network of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands. These water resources are categorized in the map into Freshwater Emergent Wetlands, Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands, Freshwater Ponds, Lakes, and Riverine systems.



The dense network of riverine systems (dark blue lines) illustrates the comprehensive watershed drainage throughout the township, with particularly high density in the western highlands.

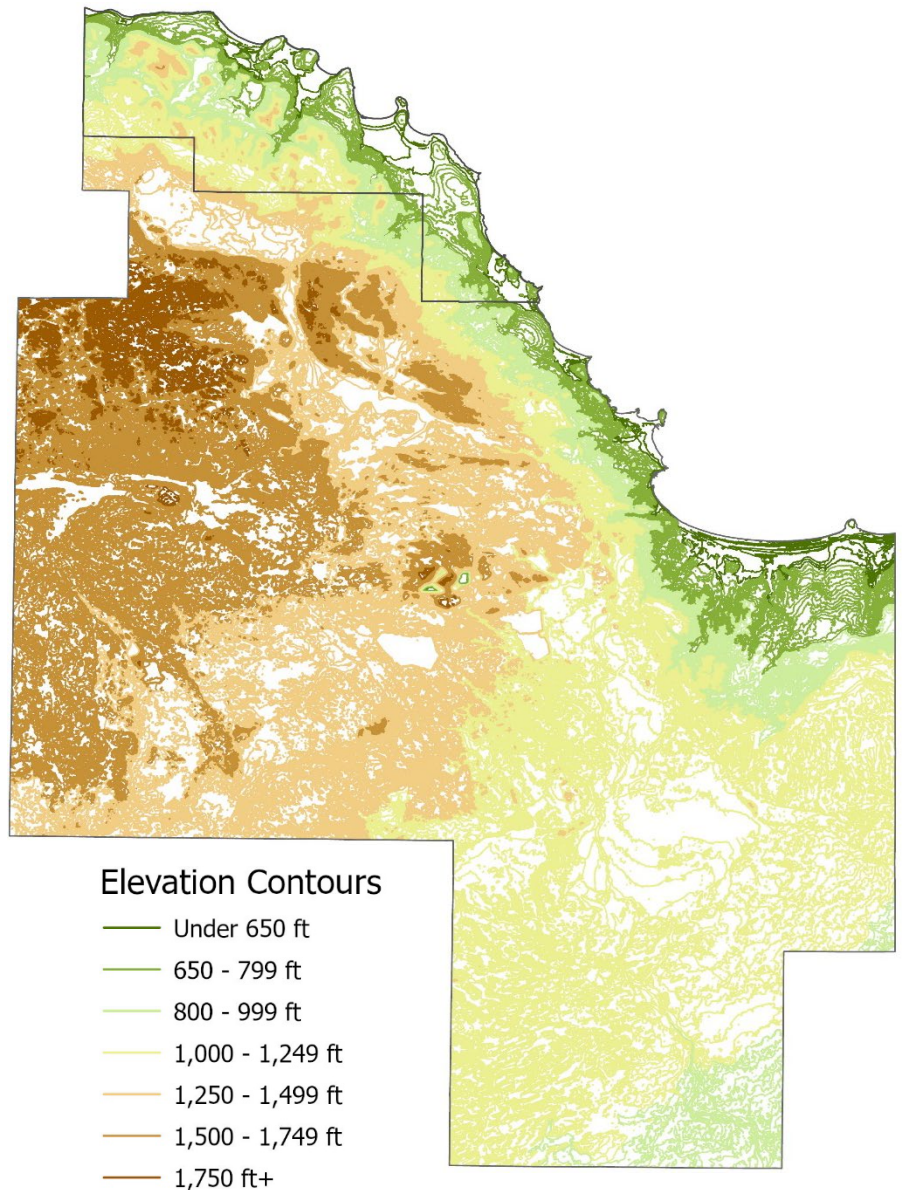
Additionally, Powell Township includes approximately 45 miles of Lake Superior shoreline along with numerous inland lakes, rivers, and streams. The Yellow Dog River and the Salmon-Trout River are particularly notable for their high water quality and status as Blue Ribbon trout streams.

These water resources provide diverse recreational opportunities including fishing, boating, swimming, paddling, and wildlife viewing. The protection of these water resources is essential for maintaining both their ecological value and recreational potential.

Topography

As depicted in the elevation map to the right, Powell Township features significant topographic variation. The western portion of the township contains the Huron Mountains, with elevations exceeding 1,500 feet above sea level in the southwestern region.

This creates a dramatic landscape that descends eastward toward Lake Superior's shoreline, where elevations drop below 650 feet. This topographic diversity contributes to the township's scenic beauty and recreational potential, creating varied opportunities from challenging hiking in the highlands to more accessible activities along the shoreline.



Importance of Recreation Planning

Understanding Powell Township's natural resources—including topography, land cover, and hydrology—is fundamental to effective recreation planning. The township's significant elevation changes affect trail difficulty, accessibility, and the types of activities that can be supported in different areas. Land cover patterns determine where various recreational facilities are most appropriate, with forested areas ideal for trails and wildlife viewing, while open spaces may better accommodate fields and gathering areas. Hydrological features not only create recreational opportunities but also present

constraints that must be addressed in facility development. Water resources require protection from potential recreational impacts, while also providing opportunities for fishing, boating, paddling, and swimming.

By developing recreation plans grounded in a thorough understanding of these natural resources, Powell Township can create facilities that not only enhance residents' quality of life but also protect the ecological systems that make the area special. This careful balance is essential for sustainable recreation that serves current needs while preserving options for future generations.

4

Recreation Inventory

Powell Township's Recreation Inventory includes a description of each facility along with its classification and accessibility rating. A list of nearby parks and recreation facilities is also included, as Township residents often travel to the City of Marquette and beyond for additional recreational options.

Park Classification

Mini-Park: A park containing specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or the elderly. These are usually between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.

Neighborhood Park/Playground: An active recreation site incorporating one or more open space areas designed for field sport and providing play apparatuses. The open space areas should be able to serve the needs of both youth and adults. A baseball field with adjoining playground and restrooms would be an example of a neighborhood park. They are generally 5 to 10 acres in size and serve a 1/4 to 1/2 mile distance.

Community Park/Recreation Area: Area of diverse environmental quality. It may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools or an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. They are usually between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve a radius of 1/2 to 3 mile distance.

Regional Park/Recreation Area: Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses. It may include play areas. These types of facilities are usually greater than 50 acres and tend to attract individuals from outside the community.

Accessibility Ratings

Each of the parks and recreation areas are described in general terms with their level of accessibility rated according to the DNR guidelines below as compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. Accurate rates for Thomas Rock and Draver Park were achieved by individual park evaluations performed by the Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL). In addition to DNR required ratings, the SAIL ADA Reports go further to make recommendations for improved accessibility on individual park elements such as parking, playgrounds, pavilions, restroom, etc.

Rating	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using universal design principles.

Township-Owned Facilities

The following parks are owned and operated by Powell Township.

Draver Park & Ballfield

This park occupies approximately 3/4 of a city block in Big Bay and is adjacent to residential land use. It is on the western edge of the community and includes one softball field, a pavilion, a playground, picnic sites, a concession stand, as well as a storage building with restrooms.

Draver Park, located near Powell Township Elementary School, is open for student use. It hosts Big Bay's Annual Fall Fest and received a DNR SPARK Grant, making it a local hub for recreation and community gatherings.

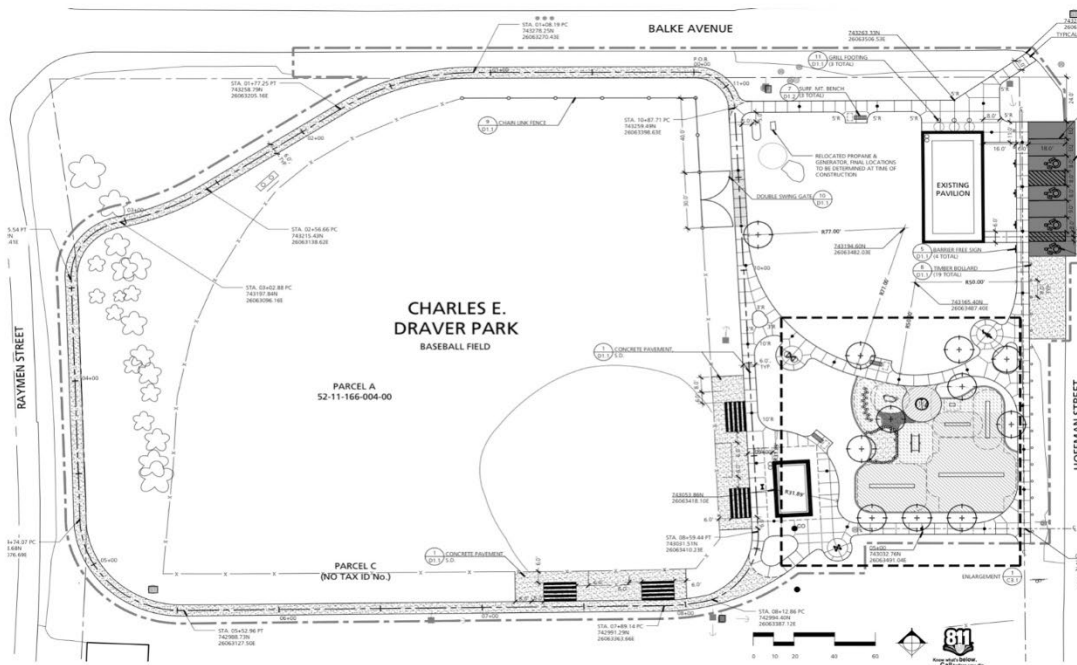
Draver Park is currently undergoing major reconstruction and renovation in 2025 as part of the SPARK Grant project. The comprehensive redevelopment includes a new year-round restroom facility, complete playground equipment replacement, and infrastructure improvements. As required by SPARK Grant stipulations, all new construction and renovations are being designed and built using Universal Design principles, ensuring the facility will serve users of all ages and abilities.

Powell Township recreation survey feedback indicates that Draver Park is the most visited facility (80% of respondents)

Note: Due to ongoing construction activities, some facilities may have limited access during the renovation period. Contact Powell Township for current availability and project completion timeline.

- **Type:** Neighborhood Park
- **Accessibility Rating:** 3
- **Access:** Located across the street from the Powell Township Post Office on Hoffman Street
- **MDNR Grant History:** DNR SPARK Grant (2025)

DRAVER PARK RENOVATIONS



Burns Landing



Powell Township owns 3.85 acres of land on the Lake Superior shoreline just west of the Big Bay Harbor. The log structure (LeClair Cabin) is thought to be one of the first buildings in the Township and provides historical interpretation of Indigenous inhabitants and frontier settlers who called Big Bay home.

Recent improvements at the site include handicapped-accessible pit toilets, an accessible boardwalk built between the restored cabin and the beach, and installation of benches and grills. This site also includes the beach area for swimming in Big Bay on Lake Superior. The beach is unguarded and undeveloped but receives significant use.

- **Type:** Community Park
- **Accessibility Rating:** 3
- **Access:** Burns Landing parking lot is located on County Road KF
- **MDNR Grant History:** 2015 grant for development (\$45,000); 2016 grant for access improvements (\$168,000).



Survey data shows this is the third most visited facility (72% of respondents), with particular appeal to older residents for historical interest.

Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook

Locally known as "Gobbler's Knob," Thomas Rock began as a 10-acre site along CR 510 donated to Powell Township for recreational use. The Township acquired 379 acres of forest land around the original site in 2010 through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to protect wildlife habitat and extend the existing trail system.

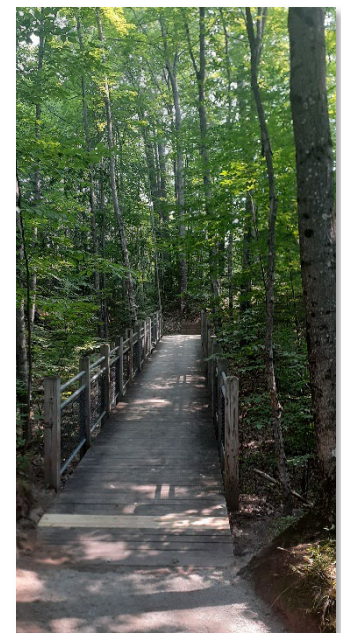


This park is one of the jewels of the region, with spectacular panoramic views of the Huron Mountains, Lake Superior, and Lake Independence. This beautiful vista point offers a one-mile ADA-accessible trail with excellent views of Big Bay, Lake Superior, Lake Independence, and on clear days, the Keweenaw Peninsula.

The site has been developed as an overlook area with fence and guardrails installed, wide pathways, gentle slopes, as well as accessible restroom facilities, a picnic area, and non-motorized trails. The park also has good signage directing people to the trails and creative, interpretive signage that identifies some of the existing plant species along the pathways. The overlook features a special viewfinder - for just 50 cents, the viewfinder sharpens colors and allows those with color blindness to experience the full beauty of this view.

- **Type:** Regional Park/Recreation Area
- **Accessibility Rating:** 3
- **Access:** Turn off County Road 550 onto County Road 510. Parking lot entrance is about 1 mile down on the north side of the road
- **MDNR Grant History:** 2009 grant to develop hiking trail, picnic area, and restrooms (\$319,100); 2010 grant to purchase additional acres of land surrounding Thomas Rock.

This facility shows strong cross-generational appeal with 76% of survey respondents visiting. The accessible design serves as a model for future developments.



Trail Use: Dirt Season - All non-motorized human-powered activities welcome; Snow Season - Ungroomed but open for winter adventuring.

Big Bay Pathway

- **Type:** Regional Park/Recreation Area
- **Accessibility Rating:** 1

The Big Bay Pathway can best be described as "groomed wilderness." Located on the western edge of Big Bay, this trail system is part of the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN). A combined total of about 10 miles of trails provides options for all levels of trail enthusiasts, offering three backcountry skiing loops for beginners, intermediate, and expert skiers.

Access: Big Bay Pathway Trailhead is located at the corner of Deutsch Street and Hoffman Avenue near Draver Park.



Trail Use: Dirt Season - All non-motorized human-powered activities welcome unless signed otherwise; Snow Season - Groomed as needed.

The survey data shows 46% overall usage but dramatic age-related accessibility challenges - only 10% of 60-69 year-olds and 4% of 70+ residents visit, suggesting a need for accessibility improvements.

Powell Township Recreation Area

Powell Township Recreation Area currently features about 12 miles of trails with additional miles planned for future development. The trails offer diverse non-motorized recreation opportunities including biking, hiking, winter snowshoeing, and backcountry skiing in a natural woodland setting. The recreation area provides year-round access to Powell Township's forested interior, connecting users with the township's natural resources while offering alternatives for residents



seeking trail experiences beyond the more developed pathway systems.

- **Type:** Community Park/Recreation Area
- **Accessibility Rating:** 2
- **Access:** Turn off County Road 550 onto County Road 510, looking for the "Powell Township Recreation Area" sign on the south side of the road. In winter, park at the Thomas Rock Overlook plowed parking area and walk to the recreation area entrance.



This facility serves residents seeking a more rustic, unimproved trail experience while supporting the township's goal of expanding trail connectivity and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Trail Use: Dirt Season- all non-motorized human-powered activities welcome unless signed otherwise. Snow Season- trails are unimproved but open for non-motorized winter adventuring, including snowshoeing and backcountry skiing.

Halfway Ball Field

The Township owns 28 acres at the Halfway location at the intersection of Brown Deer Road and County Road 550. This natural resource area was once the site of a softball field. However, as the fields have not been used for some time and they are no longer maintained and is considered an undeveloped natural area.

- **Type:** Neighborhood Park
- **Accessibility Rating:** 1
- **MDNR Grant History:** N/A

Halfway Fire Hall Kids' Park

This park is adjacent to the Township's Fire Hall near the Halfway location on County Road 550. The park includes playground equipment and serves the youth at the residential cluster near the Township's southern border.

- **Type:** Mini-Park
- **Accessibility Rating:** 3
- **MDNR Grant History:** N/A

Survey data shows appeal primarily to younger age groups, with 27% of Under 20 respondents and 23% of 30-39 age group visiting.

Other Facilities Within the Township

In addition to the parks listed above, Powell Township is home to the following recreation facilities:

Perkins Park

This 71-acre county park is located on the western shore of Lake Independence in the community of Big Bay, managed by Marquette County. The park includes 72 campsites varying from full hookups to primitive sites. The campground is well-developed and maintained including a sandy beach with volleyball courts, swimming area, and shaded pavilion with picnic tables, playground, restrooms, bathhouse with showers, boat launch, boardwalk with observation decks, fishing pier and fish cleaning station. Lake Independence is known for its excellent fishing and is fed primarily by the Yellow Dog River, with outflow to the Iron River which flows about 1 mile into Lake Superior.

Access: Off County Road 550 on Lake Independence. Beach parking lot is near the pavilion inside the park - drive slowly as community members, campers, and children are frequently present.

Note: The beach is unguarded - swim at your own risk!

Big Bay Harbor of Refuge

Located just north of Big Bay on Lake Superior, the Big Bay Harbor was developed as part of a statewide program to construct protective harbors around the Great Lakes so that no boater was more than 30 miles from a protective harbor. The harbor has a 275-foot long sheet pile and concrete mooring bulkhead with 10 slips for seasonal and transient boaters. Water and power are available at each slip. The west end of the bulkhead has fuel and sewage pumping, restrooms, and shower facilities available for slip renters. A boat launch and parking lot is open to day-use boaters. Since 1998, improvements have included shoreline stabilization, dredging, bulkhead extension, subsidence correction, and renovation of walkways and finger piers. Marquette County owns and operates the harbor.

Access: Located on County Road KF.

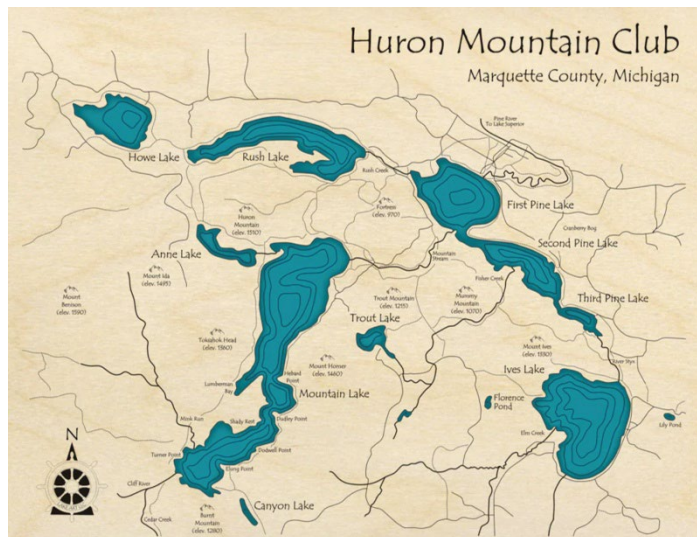
Note: The Big Bay Harbor is the closest harbor to access the Huron Islands—a group of 8 rocky islands 3 miles off the coast of Lake Superior that comprise the Huron National Wildlife Refuge. You can also access Stannard Rock Light Station—a lighthouse on a reef in Lake Superior, 24 miles from land, often referred to as "The Loneliest Place in the World."

Powell Township School

The Powell Township School is located at 101 Deutsch Avenue in Big Bay. Recreational facilities available at the school include a playground, two tennis courts, a basketball court, and the school gym. Powell Township School won a 2011 Educational Excellence award.

Huron Mountain Club (Private)

The Huron Mountain Club was formed in the early 1890s by a group of prominent Marquette residents. The families built cabins and a lodge at the mouth of the Pine River, using the Club as a summer vacation retreat. In the early 1900s the Huron Mountain Club was reorganized, and membership was held primarily by wealthy families outside Marquette County.



The Huron Mountain Club remains in existence today and owns nearly 26,000 acres in Powell Township. All Club holdings are limited to access by members only; however, the Club does attract many visitors to the area and provides employment to area residents.

Big Bay Sportsman Club

The Big Bay Sportsman Club has a clubhouse with electricity and bathroom facilities on 80 acres of land on County Road 550. Each year, the club sponsors a very popular fishing derby on Lake Independence. Proceeds from the event go toward restocking the fish in Lake Independence. The club also offers firearm safety and snowmobile safety classes, and maintains a rifle range for the exclusive use of its members.

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve is managed by a local group that actively works to preserve the Yellow Community Forest in its natural state. Along with a variety of educational programs, the group is seeking opportunities to purchase property and/or

establish conservation easements along the river. Currently, the group owns 160 acres in the Township at the mouth of the Yellow Dog River. The Jean Farwell Wilderness is a protected area and is open for public use.

Trails

Saux Head Trails

The Saux Head trails are located about 14 miles north of Marquette off County Road 550. This trail system comprises several inner loops and an outer loop, totaling approximately 7.5 miles of non-motorized trails. These trails wind through towering old-growth white pines and hemlocks around Saux Head Lake, offering views of Saux Head Lake in winter. The trails are moderately challenging and offer skiing, biking, hiking, depending on the season. Dogs are welcome on a leash per Michigan law.

Trail Use: Dirt Season - All non-motorized human-powered activities welcome unless signed otherwise; Snow Season - Groomed by volunteers for skiing and snowshoeing

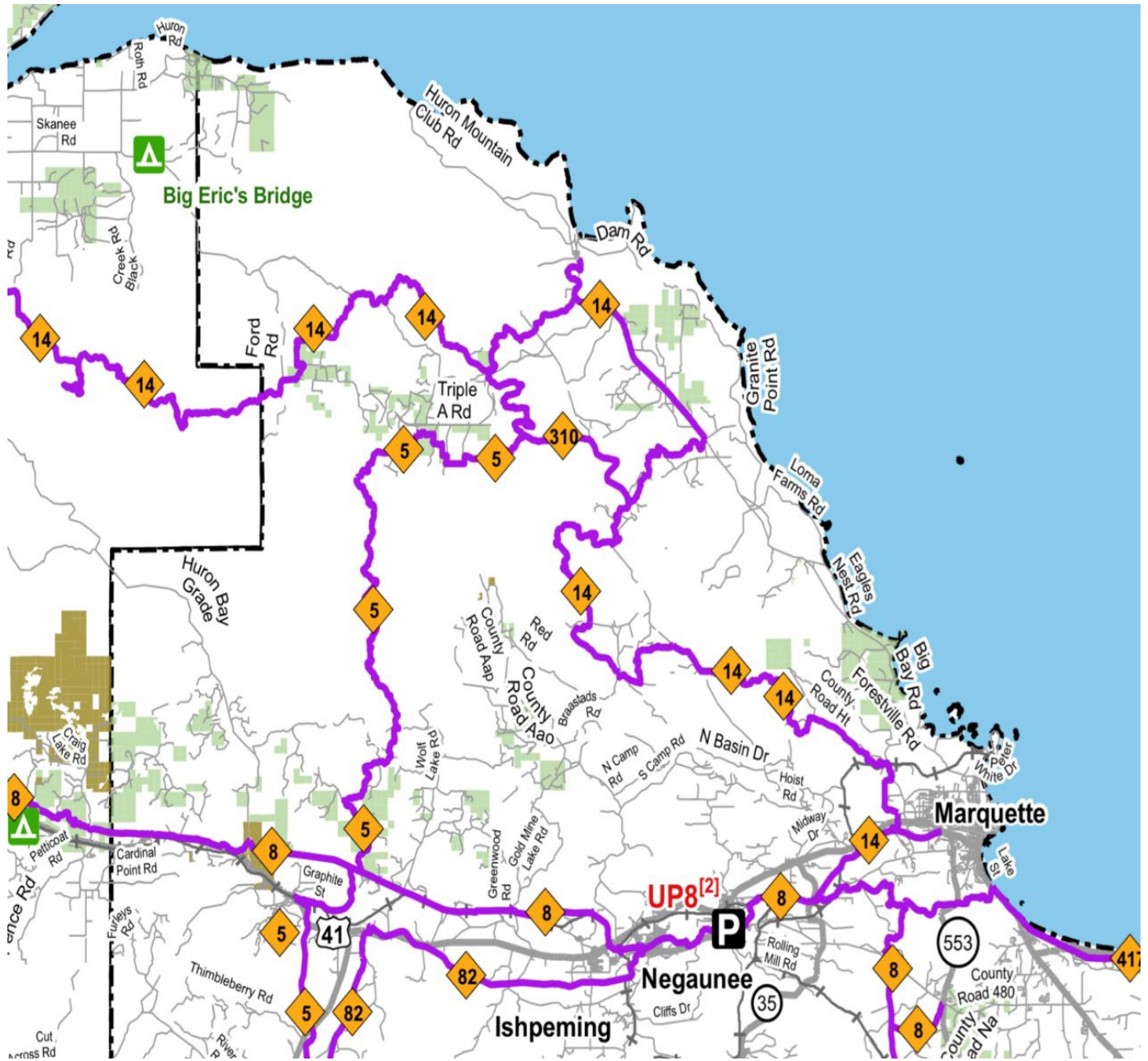
Big Bay 550 Snowmobile Club Trails



Snow is an abundant recreational asset in Powell Township. The townships' large tracts of undeveloped land offer extended riding opportunities. Many of the trails utilize Commercial Forest Act (CFA) lands and road right of ways. The Big Bay 550 Snowmobile Club, located in Big Bay, maintains 70-140 miles of snowmobile trails.

These trails connect to other snowmobile trails maintained by other snowmobile trail organizations and comprise the U.P. wide snowmobile trail system developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Map of Powell Township Snowmobile Trails



Hiawatha Water Trail

The Hiawatha Water Trail is a 120-mile paddling route along the southern shore of Lake Superior, running from Big Bay to Grand Marais, passing through Marquette County. It follows the historic routes of Native Americans and early explorers and passes through scenic areas such as Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Grand Island, and Hiawatha National Forest. It provides access to communities and historical sites, encouraging safe and responsible paddling on Lake Superior.

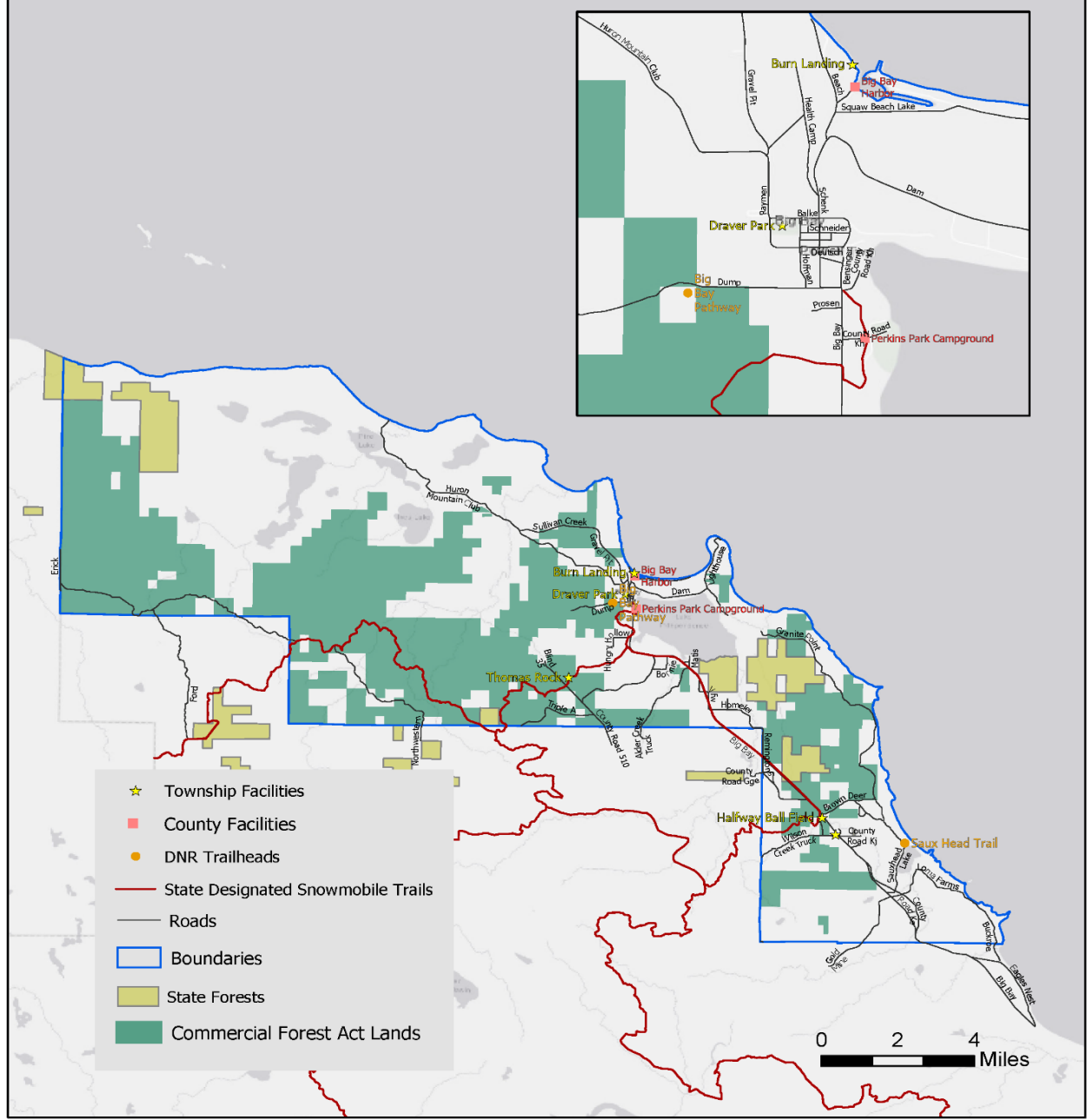


Nearby Recreation Facilities

Residents and tourists in the Powell Township area are also served by a wide variety of parks, beaches, lakes, rivers, and trails in Marquette County. Highlights include the Marquette Mountain downhill ski area, Sugarloaf Mountain scenic viewing area, Presque Isle Park on the shores of Lake Superior, and Tourist Park campground on the Dead River. In addition to these regional outdoor recreation facilities, many Powell Township residents use indoor facilities that are unavailable in the Township, such as the YMCA and Lakeshore Arena ice rink. The Iron Ore Heritage Trail, North Country Trail, and Noquemanon Trail Network provide hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing opportunities throughout the County.

The following map shows the abundance of recreation facilities in Powell Township

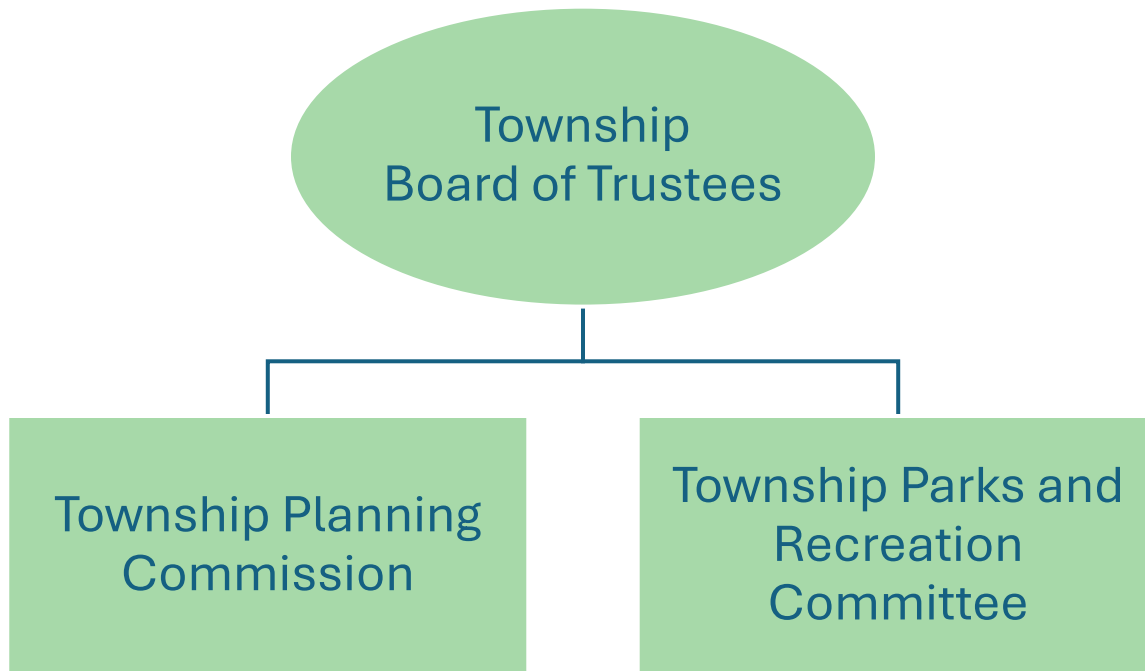
Recreational Opportunities and Facilities in Powell Township



Administrative Structure

Organization

The Powell Township Board established an eight-member Parks and Recreation Committee that meets monthly according to a published schedule. The Parks and Recreation Committee is responsible for making recommendations related to the maintenance, operation, and expansion of the Township's recreation facilities and programs. The Parks and Recreation Committee's recommendations are implemented by the Township Board and coordinated with the Planning Commission. The organizational chart for Powell Township is shown below.



The Powell Township School is an integral part of Powell Township and the Big Bay community. The school participates in township government-based decisions, and the Parks and Recreation Committee often seeks ways to further recreational opportunities for its students. A notable example is the trail network connecting Powell Township School to the Big Bay Pathway.

Recreation Budget

Funding for the Township's recreation facilities and programs is through the Township's General Fund. The budget for 2026 is included in Appendix B. Special projects are appropriated as necessary and may be supplemented with donations and grants. The Township maintains separate accounts for specific facilities and projects to ensure proper financial tracking and accountability.

Role of Volunteers

In addition to the Township Parks and Recreation Department, the Township's recreation projects rely on the time and generosity of many committed citizen volunteers. Volunteers step in to help during the most demanding times of the year, such as spring and fall maintenance periods, special events, and trail maintenance. Their contributions are essential to maintaining high-quality recreational opportunities within the Township's budget constraints.

The Township recognizes the value of these volunteer efforts and strives to support volunteers through training opportunities, recognition programs, and the provision of necessary equipment and supplies. The Parks and Recreation Committee coordinates volunteer activities and ensures a positive experience for all who contribute their time.

Partnerships

Powell Township maintains collaborative relationships with several important partners that enhance recreational opportunities:

- **Marquette County:** Coordination on regional trail networks and shared facility usage with Perkins Park and the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge
- **Superior Alliance for Independent Living (SAIL):** Assistance with accessibility planning and evaluations
- **Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN):** Cooperation on trail development and maintenance
- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Grant funding and technical assistance
- **Big Bay Stewardship Council:** A locally rooted nonprofit that helps shape the future of recreation and tourism in Powell Township through a stewardship lens. Together, the Township and the Council work to balance recreation access, environmental protection, and community well-being – ensuring that both residents and visitors experience Big Bay with respect and care.
- **Powell Township School:** Partnership for educational and recreational programming, shared use of school facilities, including playground, tennis courts, basketball court, and gymnasium. The school's location at 101 Deutsch Avenue provides important connectivity to the community trail network via the Big Bay Pathway.
- **Local businesses:** Support for events and programming

These partnerships help leverage limited resources and create a more comprehensive recreational system than would be possible through Township efforts alone.

6

Planning and Public Input Process

The development of the goals and objectives in this plan were guided by standards created by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and extensive input from community members and local officials. This chapter contains information about the planning and public input process.

Recreation Needs Standards

Standards developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provide a scale against which an existing recreation system can be measured so that guidelines for future needs can be created. These standards compare available parks and recreation acreage to the community population. However, it is important to keep in mind that many communities find that their need for recreational opportunities and open space can be met by facilities in nearby communities, while in some instances a community may be providing recreational opportunities and open space for neighboring communities. For example, regional parks containing large tracts of undeveloped land are usually found in rural areas but fulfill a need extending far beyond the boundaries of a single rural community. Conversely, residents of small communities often access recreation facilities such as swimming pools or fitness centers in nearby urban areas. It should also be recognized that some sites represent unique environmental features or historical sites which in themselves are worthy of protection and designation, over and above any applicable standards.

Local and Regional Recreation Open Space Standards

Park Type	Service Area	Size (Acres)	Acres/1,000 pop.
Mini-Park	<1/4 mile radius	1 or less	0.25 - 0.50
Neighborhood Park	1/4 to 1/2 mile radius	15+	1.0 to 2.0
Community Park	Several neighborhoods; 1 to 2 mile radius	25+	5.0 to 8.0
Regional Park	Several communities; within 1 hour driving time	200+	5.0 to 10.0

Source: Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 1983, *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association.

A community's park system under NRPA standards should have a minimum of 6.25 to 10.50 total acres of developed open space per 1,000 residents of population. With a population of less than 1,000, the standards indicate that the Township should provide between 0.25 to 0.5 acres of mini parks, one to two acres of neighborhood parks, five to eight acres of community parks, and five to 10 acres of regional parks to meet this minimum standard.

Powell Township possesses nearly 500 acres of publicly-owned recreational land. The NRPA standards would appear to indicate that the Township has excessive park acreage. However, Powell Township is a destination for outdoor recreation and residents and visitors are attracted to the township because of its natural beauty. The area provides recreational opportunities to a population outside its boundaries and has a legitimate interest in maintaining accessibility to natural features. The Township should work with Marquette Township and other surrounding townships in promoting the natural outdoor recreation attributes of the area.

Existing Public Open Space

Type of Park	Park Land Area (Acres)	Land Area Standard (Acres)
Mini Parks		
Halfway Fire Hall Playground	0.50	
<i>Subtotal</i>	0.50	0.25 to 0.50
Neighborhood Parks		
Draver Park	3.60	
Halfway Ball Field	28.00	
<i>Subtotal</i>	31.60	1.00 to 2.00
Community Parks		
Burns Landing	3.85	
<i>Subtotal</i>	3.85	5.00 to 8.00

Type of Park	Park Land Area (Acres)	Land Area Standard (Acres)
Regional Parks		
Thomas Rock	389.00	
Perkins Park	71.00	
<i>Subtotal</i>	460.00	5.00 to 10.00
Total Park Area	495.95	11.25 to 20.50

Source: Roger A. Lancaster, Ed. 1983, Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, Alexandria, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association.

Public Participation Process

Powell Township has been planning around their outdoor recreation assets for a long time. They recognize the abundant and beautiful natural resources they have as a quality-of-life advantage and a marketable resource. They also value preservation, conservation, and sustainability while desiring to retain their unique identity as a community.

In preparation of this five-year recreation plan, Powell Township wanted to hear from their community members across all demographic groups. They wanted to know how residents view the Township's current recreational offerings and what improvements they think the Township should prioritize to enhance their recreation experience.

2025 Community Recreation Survey

A comprehensive recreation survey was conducted in Spring 2025 to gather input on current recreational usage, desired improvements, and community priorities. The survey received 225 responses, with 198 residents providing a strong 24% response rate for Powell Township residents.

Survey Demographics

- **Response Rate:** 24% of Powell Township residents participated
- **Age Distribution:** Survey captured input across all age groups, with slight over-representation of 30-49 year-olds and under-representation of residents under 30 and over 70
- **Geographic Coverage:** 88% of respondents lived in or owned property in Powell Township

Key Survey Findings

Most Popular Recreational Facilities:

1. Draver Park (80% of respondents visit)
2. Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook (76% of respondents visit)
3. Burns Landing (72% of respondents visit)
4. Powell Township Trails on CR 510 (50% of respondents visit)
5. Big Bay Pathway (46% of respondents visit)

Most Popular Recreational Activities:

1. Hiking/Walking (76% participation)
2. Swimming (60% participation)
3. Kayaking/Canoeing/Paddleboarding (54% participation)
4. Boating/Sailing (53% participation)
5. Fishing (50% participation)
6. Cross-country Skiing (44% participation)

Age-Related Usage Patterns:

- **Universal Appeal:** Draver Park and Thomas Rock show consistent 75-80% visitation across all age groups
- **Accessibility Challenges:** Big Bay Pathway shows a dramatic usage drop in older demographics (only 10% of 60-69 year-olds and 4% of 70+ residents visit)
- **Generational Preferences:** Younger residents prioritize active recreation (snowmobiling, swimming), middle-aged groups focus on family activities (playgrounds, paddling), while older residents prefer passive recreation (birdwatching, boating) and historical sites

Community Priorities and Desired Improvements

Top 5 Priority Areas Identified:

1. **Trail Development & Connectivity**
 - Most requested improvement across all age groups
 - Strong support (57%) for Burns Landing to Thomas Rock trail connection
 - Safety concerns about road walking: *"Walking on the roads is so dangerous!"*
 - Requests for continued trail network growth

2. Water Access & Improvements

- Enhanced Lake Superior access points
- Fishing infrastructure improvements: *"Fish cleaning station at the harbor"*
- Boat launch and swimming area maintenance
- Four of top six activities are water-related, indicating high return on investment

3. Sports Facilities & Courts

- Pickleball courts are the most requested (particularly by 50+ residents)
- Sand volleyball and disc golf are mentioned by younger residents
- Indoor/outdoor court options desired

4. Winter Recreation Enhancement

- Ice skating facilities: *"Ice skating - it was always a big hit with the kids"*
- Groomed fat bike trails for winter riding
- Cross-country skiing (44% current participation) expansion opportunities

5. Community Spaces & Programming

- Community center/library space
- Community garden opportunities
- Programming: *"Music in the park, cookouts, more free all ages events"*
- Educational walks and nature-based programming

Community Support for Investment

Support Levels for Major Initiatives:

- Recreational millage for maintenance: 49% support, 28% maybe
- Burns Landing to Thomas Rock trail: 60% support, 19% maybe
- Community building: 55% support, 24% maybe
- Millage for land acquisition: 41% support, 31% maybe

Financial Considerations: Survey responses revealed economic concerns, particularly among older residents, with Powell Township's median income (\$46,310) significantly below county (\$62,115) and state (\$66,986) averages. Comments frequently mentioned "high taxes" and "fixed incomes" as constraints on new spending.

Generational Divide in Recreation Priorities

The survey revealed clear generational preferences requiring balanced planning:

- **Under 30:** Active recreation (snowmobiling 64%, swimming 91%)
- **30-49:** Family activities (playgrounds 58%, paddling 68%)
- **50-69:** Sports facilities (pickleball), fishing infrastructure
- **70+:** Historical sites (27% visit LeClair Cabin), passive recreation

Opposition to new initiatives increased significantly with age, with 60+ residents (44% of respondents) accounting for 52-56% of "No" votes across all proposals.

Additional Public Input Methods

Public Review Process

The draft recreation plan was made available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. Public notice was published in *The Mining Journal* on [DATE] and posted at the Powell Township Hall. A public hearing was held on [DATE] at [TIME] at the Powell Township Hall to provide opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Powell Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2026-2030.

Summary of public hearing comments will be added following the public hearing process.

7

Goals & Objectives

Powell Township used the guidelines and public input described in Chapter 6 to develop the following goals, objectives, and strategies. The "Action Plan" (Chapter 8) contains the projects that will be implemented to achieve these goals.

GOAL 1: Enhance Connectivity Through Safe Trail Development

Powell Township will create a connected network of safe, accessible trails that link recreation destinations while providing alternatives to dangerous road walking/biking and serving diverse recreation needs across age groups, including both motorized and non-motorized activities.

Objective:

Develop strategic trail connections that address safety concerns while enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, supporting both motorized recreation (snowmobiles, ORVs) and non-motorized activities (hiking, biking, skiing).

Strategies:

- **Complete Burns Landing to Thomas Rock Historical Trail connection**
 - Address complex terrain challenges, including swampy areas near the Dam Road intersection
 - Form a coalition of property owners along the proposed trail to address easements that protect private property while allowing the development of the historical trail.
 - Provide safer pedestrian/cyclist access from the bottom of the hill on Dam Road up to the intersection by Burns Landing
 - Coordinate with road access to the lighthouse area while managing environmental constraints
- **Enhance trail connectivity throughout the township**
 - Integrate with the existing Noquemanon Trail Network for seamless multi-use experiences

- Develop trail segments that serve as vital transportation links, as well as recreation
- Ensure trails accommodate multiple user groups (hikers, bikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobiles, ORVs)
- Coordinate motorized and non-motorized trail systems to minimize conflicts while maximizing connectivity
- **Prioritize accessibility and safety in all trail development**
 - Design trails using Universal Design principles where topographically feasible
 - Address documented safety concerns of bicyclists and pedestrians by using Safe Routes to Schools standards to address infrastructure improvements that promote walking and biking and make the routes safer and more accessible to students
 - Create trail connections that serve both recreational and transportation needs
- **Maintain and enhance the Historical Trail through Big Bay**
 - Preserve this important heritage and recreation connector
 - Integrate historical interpretation with recreational use
 - Ensure accessibility improvements support both historical tourism and local recreation
- **Develop and maintain motorized recreation trail systems**
 - Support and enhance the existing Big Bay 550 Snowmobile Club trail network throughout Powell Township
 - Develop ORV trail opportunities utilizing Commercial Forest Act (CFA) lands and appropriate corridors
 - Coordinate motorized trail connections with neighboring townships and regional trail systems
 - Ensure motorized trails connect key destinations while managing environmental impacts
 - Balance motorized recreation access with protection of sensitive natural areas

Evidence Base: Hiking/walking is the most popular activity (76% participation), with strong support for both non-motorized trails (57% for Burns Landing to Thomas Rock

trail) and motorized recreation (64% of Under 30 residents participate in snowmobiling). Multiple safety concerns expressed about dangerous road walking conditions, with trail connectivity serving both recreational and transportation needs.

GOAL 2: Expand and Improve Water Access and Waterfront Facilities

Powell Township will enhance existing water access points and acquire strategic waterfront properties to better serve the community's most popular recreational activities that support multi-generational use.

Objective:

Expand Lake Superior access and improve waterfront facilities to serve the high demand for water-based recreation while creating economic opportunities for the community.

Strategies:

- **Acquire strategic waterfront properties for public access**
 - Purchase land between the Break Wall and Powell Township's Burns Landing to expand Lake Superior access
 - Acquire waterfalls property for public access to these natural attractions
 - Evaluate other waterfront acquisition opportunities that enhance public access
- **Enhance existing water access infrastructure**
 - Install a fishing pier on Lake Superior to serve the 50% of residents who fish
 - Improve boat launch facilities and parking at Burns Landing
 - Add a fish cleaning station at the harbor as specifically requested by residents
 - Maintain and improve swimming areas, particularly at Burns Landing/Burns Beach
- **Address maintenance and safety concerns at waterfront facilities**
 - Continue debris removal and shoreline maintenance at Burns Landing
 - Improve parking and accessibility at all water access points

- Ensure facilities serve diverse waterfront activities (swimming, fishing, boating, paddling)
-
- **Support water-based recreation programming**
 - Partner with local organizations to offer water safety and boating education
 - Explore opportunities for kayak/canoe and paddle board instruction programs
 - Maintain facilities that support both resident recreation and tourism economy

Evidence Base: Four of the top six activities are water-related: swimming (60%), paddling (54%), boating (53%), and fishing (50%). Burns Landing is the third most visited recreation site (72% of respondents), with specific improvement requests documented in survey responses.

GOAL 3: Preserve and Enhance Historical and Assets

Powell Township will maintain and improve the township's recreation facilities to provide educational and cultural recreation opportunities while preserving community heritage for future generations.

Objective:

Enhance historical assets as unique community resources that serve the educational, cultural, and passive recreational needs of all demographic groups.

Strategies:

- **Develop and implement a comprehensive LeClair Cabin improvement plan**
 - Assess and plan for general structural improvements, including flooring and other essential infrastructure
 - Create a comprehensive improvement plan for cabin restoration and enhancement
 - Ensure accessibility improvements serve both tourism and the local population

- Maintain the cabin, Burns Landing walkway and Burns Beach to be attractive to tourists and enjoyed by residents
- **Enhance interpretation and accessibility along historical corridors**
 - Improve Historical Trail through Big Bay with enhanced interpretation
 - Connect historical assets with broader trail network development
 - Ensure historical sites remain accessible to aging population who show strong interest
- **Integrate heritage tourism with recreation planning**
 - Position historical assets as unique attractions that complement outdoor recreation
 - Support educational programming that connects history with natural resource appreciation
 - Maintain historical character while improving modern accessibility and safety
- **Preserve historical recreation traditions**
 - Document and maintain traditional recreation uses of historical sites
 - Ensure historical assets serve both passive recreation and educational functions
 - Connect younger generations with community heritage through recreation programming

Evidence Base: LeClair Cabin shows increasing visitation with age (27% of 60-69 year-olds and 26% of 70+ respondents visit). Historical sites provide important passive recreation opportunities and complement active recreation experiences.

GOAL 4: Balance Recreation Development with Community Character and Natural Resource Protection

Powell Township will ensure recreation improvements complement and protect the township's natural qualities and quiet character while thoughtfully managing the relationship between resident recreation needs and sustainable tourism.

Objective:

Develop recreation infrastructure that preserves Powell Township's natural character and dark skies while supporting both resident quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Strategies:

- **Prioritize maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities over extensive new development**
 - Focus resources on improving and maintaining current recreation infrastructure
 - Apply "if you build it, you must maintain it" principle to all new developments
 - Ensure all improvements support long-term sustainability
- **Protect natural resources and community character**
 - Maintain integrity of dark skies, quiet environments, and clean land use
 - Balance tourism promotion with preservation of natural settings
 - Ensure recreation development supports rather than detracts from natural beauty
- **Manage tourism impacts thoughtfully**
 - Develop recreation infrastructure that serves residents first while attracting appropriate visitors
 - Ensure recreation development supports local economic needs without overwhelming community resources
 - Partner with the Big Bay Stewardship Council to coordinate visitor education, responsible recreation campaigns, destination stewardship, and data-driven assessments of tourism impacts in Powell Township. This

collaboration will help the Parks and Recreation Committee proactively manage visitor use patterns and maintain a balance between community integrity and economic opportunity.

- **Collaborate with the Big Bay Stewardship Council on place-based stewardship.**

- Collaborate with the BBSC to work with residents, visitors and partners to cultivate a community-wide stewardship ethic; one that protects natural resources, honors local identity, and promotes responsible recreation so Powell Township remains healthy and vibrant for generations.
- Protect water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest resources in all recreation development
- Use sustainable design and maintenance practices
- Collaborate with the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve to ensure recreational activities support rather than compete with natural resource conservation

- **Increase community-centric programming and partnerships**

- Support Fall-Fest, concerts, Fire on the Bay, children's activities at Draver Park, and Ball tournaments
- Develop programming that brings residents together: bingo, trivia nights, pickleball tournaments
- Collaborate with Powell Township School on Safe Routes to Schools infrastructure and programming opportunities
- Partner with local churches and community groups for event hosting and programming
- Work with local businesses to support recreation programming and events
- Create partnership agreements with various community stakeholders to expand a broad spectrum of recreational offerings

Evidence Base: Survey responses show tension between tourism promotion and preservation, with strong appreciation for natural settings. Comments emphasize maintaining "integrity of dark skies, quiet times, great views and clean land use" while supporting appropriate economic development.

GOAL 5: Create Multi-Generational Recreation Opportunities with Emphasis on Year-Round Activities

Powell Township will develop recreation facilities and programs that serve residents of all ages and abilities, with emphasis on accessibility, four-season activities, and community gathering spaces that support demographic diversity.

Objective:

Ensure recreation planning serves all demographic groups by expanding winter recreation opportunities and creating spaces for community gathering and programming.

Strategies:

- **Develop facilities that serve multiple generations simultaneously**
 - Create pickleball courts and similar facilities (popular with 50+ residents)
 - Maintain Universally Designed and enhance playground facilities for families
 - Design Universally Designed community spaces that accommodate multi-generational programming and events
- **Expand winter recreation opportunities for year-round community engagement**
 - Develop ice skating facilities (as requested: *"Ice skating - it was always a big hit with the kids"*)
 - Create groomed fat bike trails for winter cycling
 - Enhance cross-country skiing opportunities (currently 44% participation rate)
 - Support snowmobiling access while managing environmental impacts
- **Develop community center as central hub for multi-generational programming**
 - Build community center to provide year-round indoor space for diverse programming
 - Create facility that supports winter activity access and programming when outdoor recreation is limited

- Design space to accommodate community events: *"Music in the park, cookouts, more free all ages events"*
- Include facilities for educational programming: *"Group art classes, educational walks/nature-based, and cemetery tours"*
- Provide indoor space for winter recreation activities and community gatherings
- Create community garden opportunities adjacent to or integrated with community center
- **Ensure accessibility across all age groups and abilities**
 - Address documented accessibility challenges at Big Bay Pathway and other facilities
 - Design new facilities using Universal Design principles
 - Ensure aging populations have access to recreation
 - Create opportunities for residents of all abilities to participate in community recreation
- **Support economic sustainability for diverse age groups**
 - Recognize that recreation development can support economic opportunities for residents
 - Balance fixed-income concerns with investment in community amenities that support placemaking, and improve property values and quality of life
 - Ensure recreation improvements serve both current residents and help attract younger families

Evidence Base: Despite median age of 60.1, survey showed strong support for youth and family facilities. Clear age-based activity preferences require diversified recreation approach, with winter activities showing potential for expanded participation across age groups.

8

Action Plan

This action plan is intended to be a living document, revisited annually by the Powell Township Parks and Recreation Committee to guide its efforts to continue improving the Township's parks and trail systems.

Ideally, the Chair of the Powell Township Parks and Recreation Committee will place the Action Plan Update on the agenda on or about the same time each year so the Parks and Recreation Committee can adjust the plan as needed based on known costs, funding availability, and new opportunities for recreation growth.

Trail Development Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Burns Landing to Thomas Rock Trail Connection	Develop safe pedestrian/bike trail connecting Burns Landing to Thomas Rock via CR 510. Address complex terrain. Include safer access from bottom of hill on Dam Road up to intersection by Burns Landing on road to lighthouse.	\$500,000	MDNR Grant, Powell Township, Federal Trail Grants	High
Trail Safety Assessment and Improvements	Conduct comprehensive safety assessment of existing trail connections. Improve dangerous road walking areas with dedicated trail infrastructure or improved shoulders/signage.	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Powell Township, MDNR Trail Grant	High
Historical Trail Enhancement	Enhance Historical Trail through Big Bay with improved accessibility, interpretation, and connections to broader trail network.	\$20,000 - \$35,000	MDNR Grant, Historical Preservation Grants	Medium
Noquemanon Trail Network Integration	Coordinate with NTN to improve connections and signage between township trails and existing NTN infrastructure.	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Powell Township, NTN Partnership	Medium

Water Access and Property Acquisition Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Acquire Land Between Break Wall and Burns Landing	Purchase privately owned land between Break Wall and Powell Township's Burns Landing to expand Lake Superior public access.	TBD - Requires Property Appraisal	MDNR Grant, Powell Township, Land Acquisition Grants	High
Alder Falls Property Acquisition	Acquire currently private Alder Falls property to provide public access to this natural attraction.	TBD - Requires Property Appraisal	MDNR Grant, Powell Township, Conservation Grants	Medium
Lake Superior Fishing Pier Construction	Install fishing pier on Lake Superior to serve community fishing needs (50% of residents participate in fishing).	\$35,000 - \$50,000	MDNR Grant, Powell Township	Medium
Harbor Fish Cleaning Station	Add fish cleaning station at Big Bay Harbor as specifically requested by survey respondents.	\$40,000 - \$80,000	Powell Township, Marquette County Partnership	High
Burns Landing Waterfront Improvements	Continue debris removal, enhance parking and accessibility at water access points.	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Powell Township, MDNR Grant	Medium

Historical Asset Enhancement Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
LeClair Cabin Comprehensive Improvement Plan	Develop formal improvement plan for cabin including flooring, structural improvements, and enhanced interpretation facilities.	\$3,000 - \$5,000 (Planning)	Powell Township	High
LeClair Cabin Infrastructure Improvements	Implement comprehensive improvements including flooring, structural repairs, and enhanced visitor facilities based on improvement plan.	\$25,000 - \$40,000	MDNR Grant, Historical Preservation Grants, Powell Township	Medium
Historical Trail Interpretation Enhancement	Improve signage, accessibility, and educational components along Historical Trail through Big Bay.	\$10,000 - \$15,000	MDNR Grant, Powell Township	Medium

Community Partnership and Stewardship Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Big Bay Stewardship Council MOU Development	Draft and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Stewardship Council to guide collaboration on sustainable tourism management and community-based stewardship	\$2,000 - \$3,000	Powell Township	High
Community Programming Initiative	Develop regular programming including bingo, trivia nights, pickleball tournaments, and seasonal events.	\$5,000 - \$8,000 annually	Powell Township, Local Business Partnerships	High
Community Partnership Agreements	Establish formal partnerships with Powell Township School, local churches, community groups, and businesses for recreation programming and event hosting.	\$2,000 - \$4,000	Powell Township, Partner Contributions	Medium
Sustainable Tourism Management Plan	Develop guidelines for balancing resident recreation needs with tourism promotion, working with CREST principles.	\$5,000 - \$8,000	Powell Township, Tourism Grants	Medium

Community Infrastructure and Programming Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Community Center Development	Plan and construct community center as central hub for year-round indoor programming, winter activity access, and multi-generational gathering space.	\$300,000 - \$500,000	MDNR Grant, Federal Community Development Grants, Powell Township, Fundraising	High
Community Center Site Selection and Planning	Identify optimal location, conduct feasibility study, and develop architectural plans for community center.	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Powell Township	High
Winter Recreation Facility Development	Develop ice skating area and enhance winter recreation infrastructure. Explore groomed fat bike trail options.	\$20,000 - \$35,000	Powell Township, MDNR Grant	Medium
Pickleball Court Construction	Construct outdoor pickleball courts to serve 50+ demographic (most requested sports facility).	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Powell Township, Community Fundraising	Medium
Community Garden Development	Establish community garden space for intergenerational programming and education.	\$5,000 - \$10,000	Powell Township, Volunteer Labor, Donations	Medium

Ongoing Maintenance and Operations

Annual Maintenance Projects

Project	Description	Estimate	Funding Source	Priority
Draver Park Renovations (In Progress)	Complete 2025 construction including new year-round restroom facility and playground equipment replacement.	\$75,000 - \$100,000	MDNR Grant, Powell Township	High
Facility Accessibility Improvements	Ongoing improvements to bring facilities into ADA compliance based on site assessments and SAIL recommendations.	\$10,000 - \$15,000 annually	Powell Township, MDNR Grant	High
Trail Maintenance and Improvements	Annual trail maintenance, signage updates, and safety improvements across all township trail systems.	\$8,000 - \$12,000 annually	Powell Township	High
Burns Landing Maintenance	Ongoing maintenance of historic cabin, boardwalk, beach area, and facilities.	\$5,000 - \$8,000 annually	Powell Township	High

Funding Strategy

Primary Funding Sources

- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants:** Recreation improvement grants, trail development grants, land acquisition grants
- **Federal Grants:** Community Development Block Grants, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Transportation Alternatives Program
- **Powell Township General Fund:** Local match requirements, smaller projects, ongoing maintenance
- **Special Assessments/Millages:** Based on community support levels (49% support recreational millage for maintenance)
- **Partnerships:** Cost-sharing with Marquette County, Noquemanon Trail Network, local businesses

- **Fundraising:** Community fundraising for specific projects like pickleball courts, community garden

Grant Application Timeline

- **Annual MDNR Grant Cycles:** Applications typically due February-April for following fiscal year funding
- **Federal Grant Opportunities:** Various cycles throughout year, require longer lead times
- **Foundation Grants:** Various deadlines, particularly for community programming and accessibility improvements

Implementation Priorities

Year 1 (2026)

Immediate Actions:

- LeClair Cabin electricity installation
- Stewardship Council MOU development
- Community center site selection and planning
- Fish cleaning station installation

Years 2-3 (2027-2028)

Medium-term Development:

- Burns Landing to Thomas Rock trail connection
- Property acquisition initiatives (Break Wall area, Alder Falls)
- LeClair Cabin comprehensive improvements
- Pickleball court construction
- Lake Superior fishing pier

Years 4-5 (2029-2030)

Long-term Infrastructure:

- Community center construction
- Winter recreation facility development
- Historical trail enhancement completion
- Major accessibility improvements completion

Performance Metrics

Success Indicators

- **Trail Usage:** Annual counts on major trail connections
- **Facility Visitation:** Tracking visits to major recreation sites
- **Community Programming Participation:** Attendance at township-sponsored events
- **Accessibility Improvements:** Number of facilities meeting ADA compliance
- **Grant Success Rate:** Percentage of submitted grants awarded

Review Process

The Parks and Recreation Committee will review this Action Plan annually to:

- Assess progress on current projects
- Adjust timelines based on funding availability
- Incorporate new opportunities or community needs
- Update cost estimates and funding sources
- Reprioritize projects based on changing circumstances

This Action Plan reflects community priorities identified through the 2025 Recreation Survey and provides a roadmap for recreation development that serves current residents while building infrastructure to attract and retain families across all age groups.

Appendix A



Parks & Recreation Department



PT P&R Survey 2026

225 responses

Big picture

Views

448

Starts

261

Submissions

225

Completion rate

86.2%

Time to complete

04:28

Powell Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2026 - 2030 SURVEY

In order to qualify for Michigan Natural Resources funding we need to update our current Recreation Plan.

All ten questions are optional. Please answer as many as you wish.
Thank you.

1. Please circle or check mark which group you belong to.

Under 20	21 - 30	31 - 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61 - 70	71 ->
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2. Which of the Powell Township's Recreation Sites do you visit at least once a year?
Please circle or check mark all that apply.

Big Bay Pathway	Burns Landing	Draver Park	Halfway Park	LeClaire Cabin	Powell Trails	Thomas Rock
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3. What recreational activities do you participate in? Circle or check all that apply.
Please circle or check mark all that apply.

ATV/ORV Motorsports	Bicycling (including E-bikes)	Bird/Wildlife/Viewing/Photography	Cross County Skiing	Boating Motor/Sailing	Fishing	Baseball/Softball
Dog walking	Hiking/walking	Geocaching	Kayak/Canoeing/Paddleboarding	Going to a playground for all ages and abilities	Picnicking	Snowmobile
Tennis/Pickleball/racket sports	Snowbiking	Skijoring/Mushing	Swimming	Disc Golf	Bicycle Pump Track for youth	Other?

4. What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in the Township?

5. Would you support a Recreational Millage for the maintenance of our current recreational opportunities? All recreational properties require maintenance.

YES	NO	MAYBE
-----	----	-------

Date:

Record #

Page 1 of 2

Powell Township Parks and Recreation Plan 2026 - 2030 SURVEY

6. Would you support a trail from Burns Landing to Thomas Rock for pedestrians and bikes?

YES	NO	MAYBE
-----	----	-------

7. Do you support the building of a Community Building for public gatherings, educational presentations and recreation?

YES	NO	MAYBE
-----	----	-------

8. Would you support a millage to purchase public properties for future recreation?

YES	NO	MAYBE
-----	----	-------

9. Do you own property and/or reside in Powell Township?

YES	NO
-----	----

10. Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:

LAST QUESTION: All questions are optional.

Thank you for taking the time to help us plan for recreation in Powell Township!

Visit the Powell Township Parks and Recreation Department at:

<https://powelltownship.org/parks-recreation/>

Our Facebook Page can be found here:

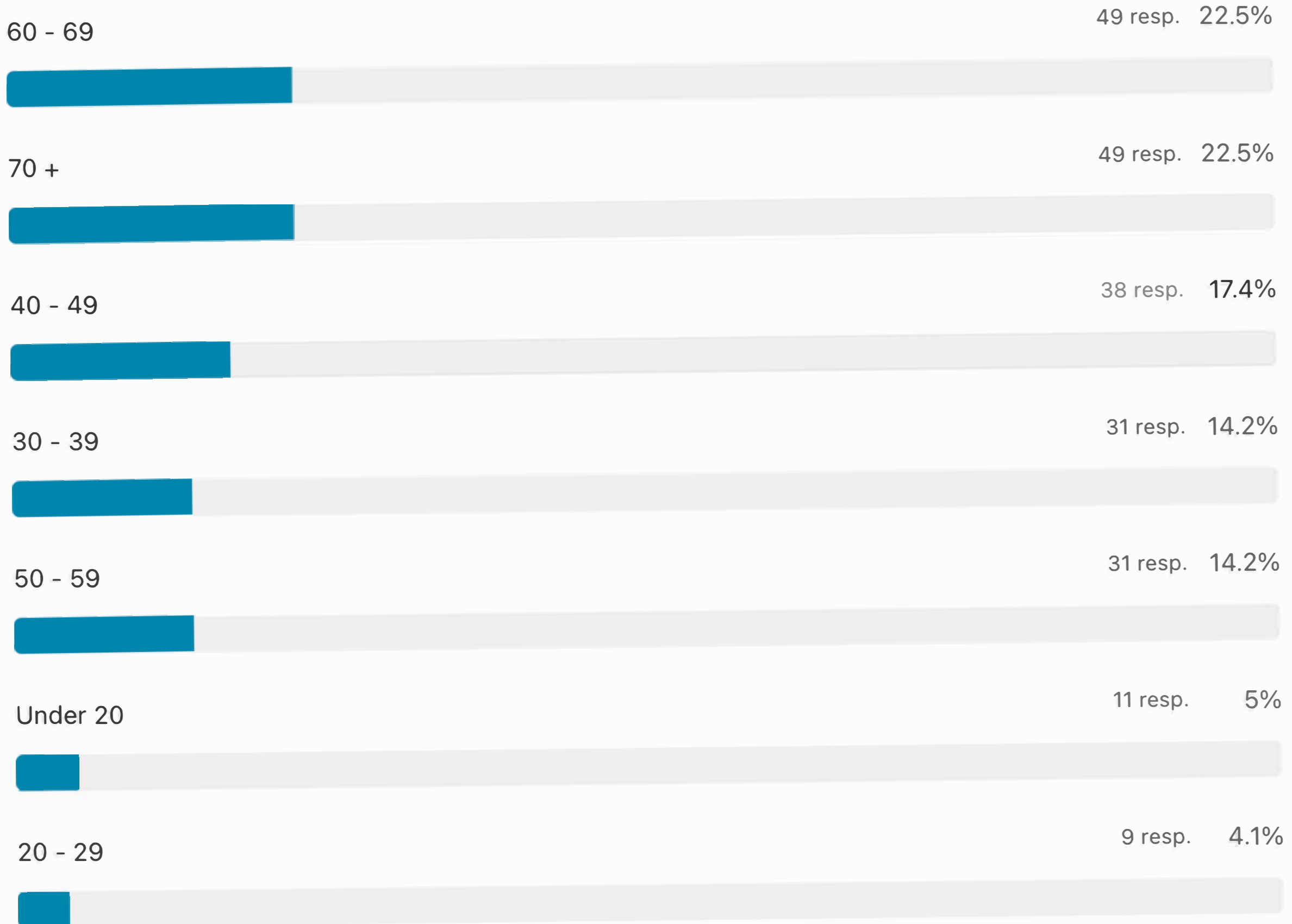
<https://www.facebook.com/ptparksNrec/>

The Powell Township News is here:

<https://powelltownship.org/home/newsletter/>

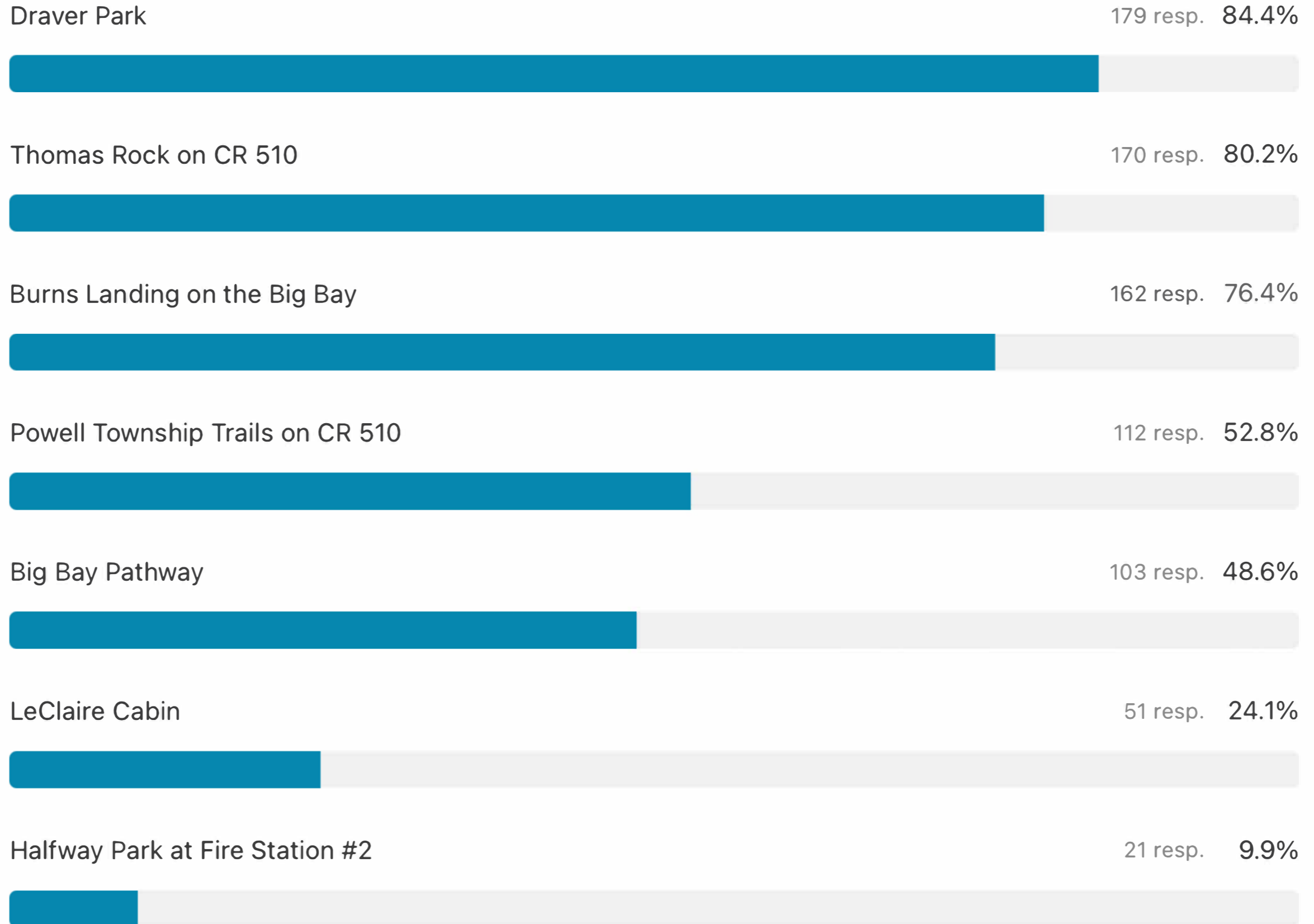


What is your age group?



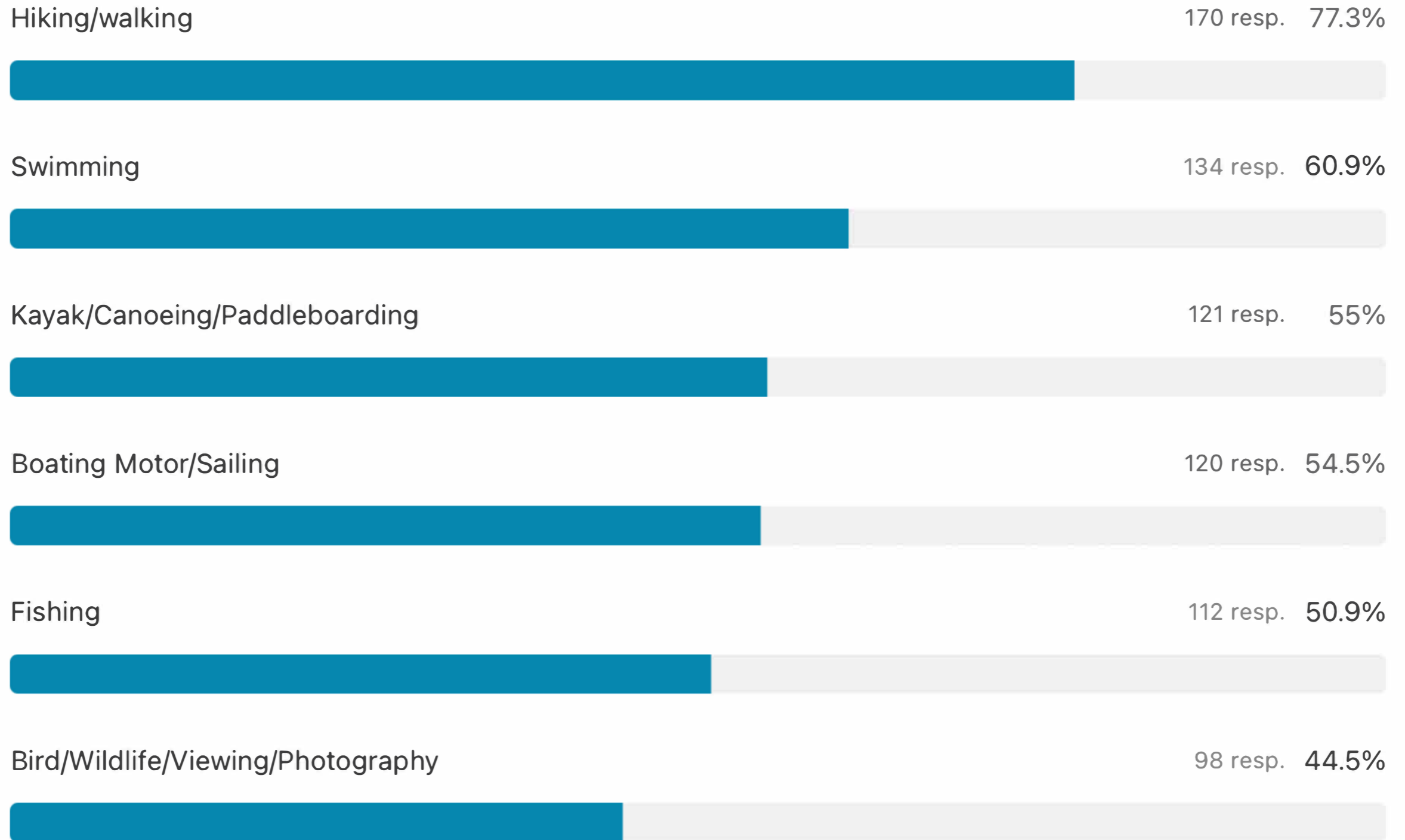


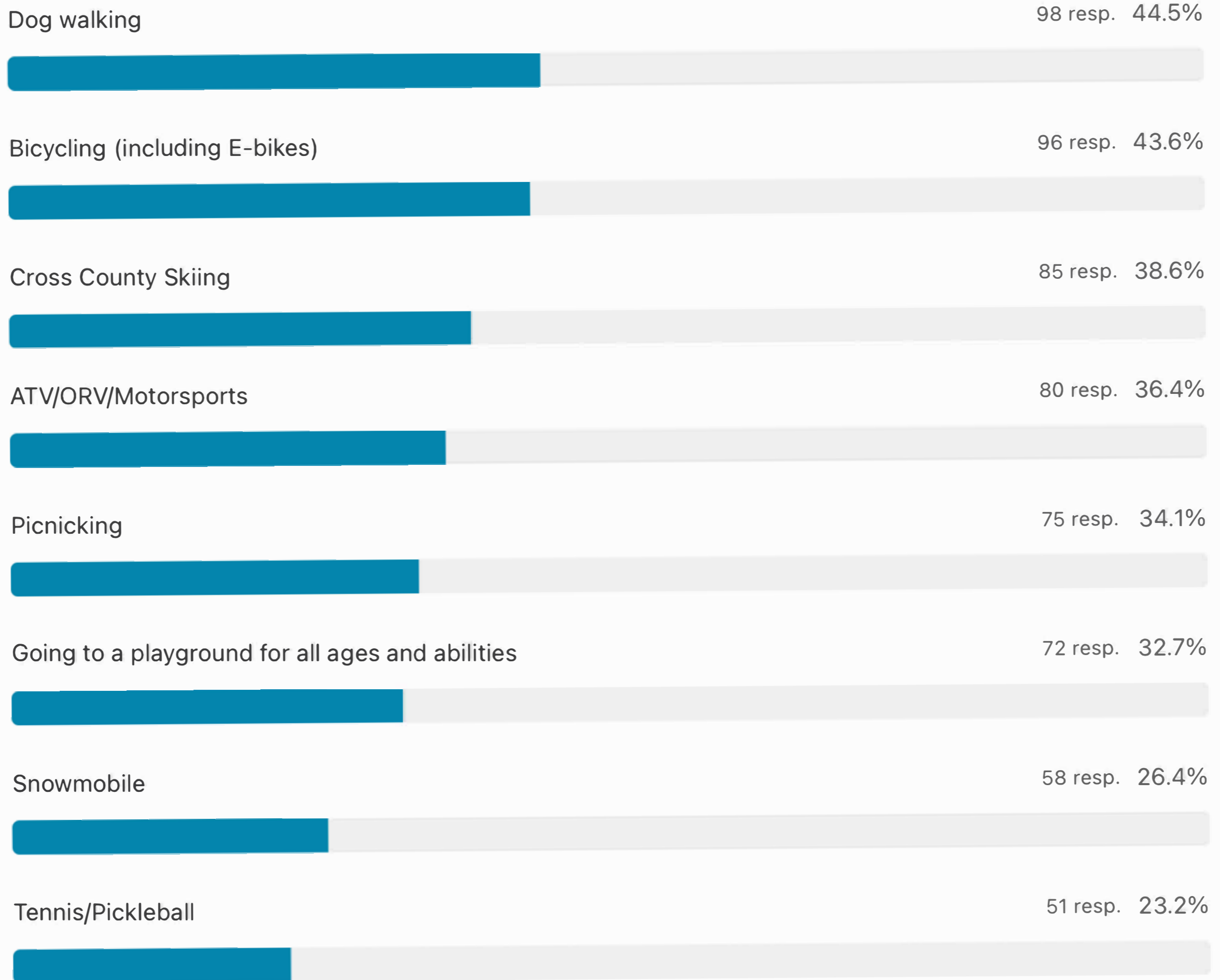
Which of the Powell Township's Recreation Sites do you visit at least once a year?



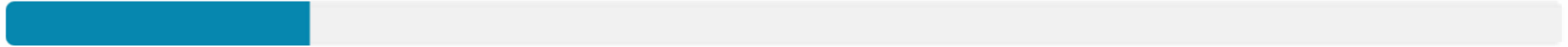


What recreational activities do you participate in?

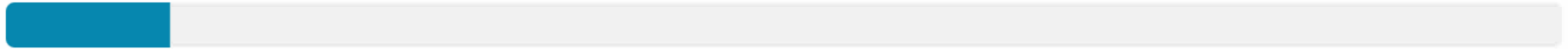




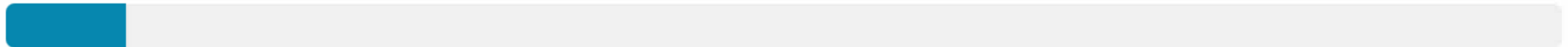
Running/Jogging 43 resp. 19.5%



Baseball/Softball 23 resp. 10.5%



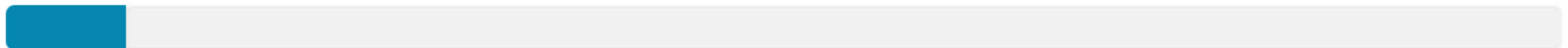
Bicycle Pump Track for youth 17 resp. 7.7%



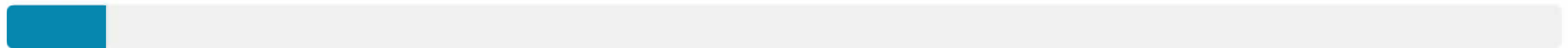
Disc Golf 17 resp. 7.7%



Snow biking 17 resp. 7.7%



Geocaching 14 resp. 6.4%



What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

Sledding, a pump track, bingo, baseball/softball teams, cooking classes

Pump track or Grom trail for kids, more ski trails would be awesome! Safer ways to bike/walk from place to place, pickle ball

Dog park

Music in the park, cookouts, more free all ages events—we love to visit Big Bay!

Running, disc golf

Sand volleyball, indoor pickleball

Bike lane on 550

All

Mountain biking

Running, activities with my dog, swimming, kayaking, and cross country skiing are my favorite.

There are already plenty.

Bike riding trail

I love where we are at. I would always love to see more trails for hiking and more native gardens though.

More for children..

More biking trails a trail that leads from town

Community Garden. More walking paths. More mountain view hiking paths.

Hiking and biking

Disc golf/miniature golf/arcade

All of the above in question 3

PickleBall

Outside public pickle ball courts

More water access and more trails

Hiking, snowshoeing, XC skiing

More bike trails

A rock climbing wall would be pretty cool.

Exercise in the park

Already pleased with available options

a dog park

trampoline park

skating ring

skating

a roller skating park, and a trampoline park.

Backcountry skiing

Basketball

Pickleball

Continue to maintain the existing infrastructure.
The existing opportunities are excellent. The addition of more often times leads to mediocre everywhere.

New playground equipment for our kids @ Dravers & Perkins (especially Perkins that equipment is old and not big enough to keep all the kids safe or entertained), more craft shows (I used to put craft shows together and it helps the community and local businesses), halloween haunted hay rides, Christmas Carolling, just anything to help keep our kids and community having fun..

What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

For community sailing to return to Perkins Park

Snowmobile group rides, ATV/UTV group rides, Fishing tournaments

Indoor pickball courts

Dog park at Draver Park

Disc golf, bike trails

Disc golf

Baseball / softball games

Sled hill

Na

Na

Indoor pool and gym

Continue or increase community concerts with food and grandchildren activities

Dancing lessons

Youth bicycle pump track. Access to the lake at the big Bay lighthouse

Playgrounds, trails, tennis courts, public beaches

Better walleye fishing

I would love a garden area for everyone to plant stuff in and take care of. Like a snipping garden, but for everyone to garden in.

a dirt bike trall

rc track

top golf

A gym

junior fire school

dog park-

more indoor group health activities/classes: tai chi, yoga, etc

Walking in winter fishing piers lighting for trails

Volleyball, hiking, sailing, skiing,

Community center/library

Pickleball Courts

Side by side recreation trails

snowshoeing, community garden space/allotments

A community center that can host fitness classes, build a pool, offer exercise equipment

Continue existing activities

Disc golf

EBike

All available

Indoor pickleball with more than one court. Permanent outdoor pickleball court(s).

Where is hunting on the list????

More walking paths. Walking on the roads is so dangerous!

Dog walking trails, new sidewalks in town, support for snowmobiling and ATV riders, parks for kids.

Trails -Races- Group Events

More hiking trails

softball team

What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

outdoor pickleball courts and indoor recreational facility (with a possible pickleball court or two).
Better access to trails for walking/atvs/snowmobiles/sking from the town of Big Bay
Organized group exercise, arts and crafts,book clubs,that the whole community can participate in.
The pump track would be great for kids.
Bike path connecting 510 sites to downtown/draver/burns landing
Non-motorized trail to Marquette. Outdoor recreation events in Powell Township for families.
More activities for seniors.
Disk golf , geocaching
The playground at Draver Park is nice for the grandkids
Disc golf course
Guided self tour around Big Bay
Pickleball courts new nets on basketball ct
Jogging path along kcb
Swimming, hiking, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding
Golf course
ORV trails to the town so we don't have to ride on paved roads. The money they wasted on bike trails when the people wanted orv trails. They took Eagle Mine money and just bought equipment for the township which is being used for personal use. This money was for a trail system and the people got scammed
Sailing
You have a good selection now , keep it.
Any Outdoor activities
Summer fishing derby
Better playgrounds, bike trails of all levels, hiking trails, beaches
Any activities that can be done in nature in it's natural state so tax payer dollars are not needed to sustain it.
I'm too old to do these things, but anything pleasant for the little ones and young adults and visitors.
Better playground equipment
The addition and maintenance of the trails in the region are an incredible gem. I frequently hike and trail run in the region and love the trails. I'd like to see more opportunities of connection between the trails for longer distances.
Skiing, biking
Hiking trails/XC Ski trails/Mountain bike trails/Scenic overlook
Crushed Limestone Bike path from Burn's Landing to Thomas Rock.
Pickleball courts all year, fishing management, bike/walking trails along shoreline and through the woods easygoing with pea gravel (not mountain bike), waterfalls signage/maps, old railway history signage with the clearing and maintenance of the old railway grade.
Indoor swimming pool !
Anything that gathers the community together. Like 4th of July and the fall harvest "festival "... and all the other events we have. I also love the Lake Superior beach . The improvements are wonderful!
Leave things alone and stop "improving "

What Recreational Activities would you like to have available in Powell Township?

Group art classes.
Educational walks/nature based
Pickle ball courts
Disc golf
Sledding area
More summer concerts.
Exercise classes
A Kayak / Canoe landing at Burns Landing or inside the Break Wall location
Disc golf course
Pickleball court
volleyball, basketball, pickleball
Basketball court/Pickle ball, upgraded park, Dog Park, more walking paths
PT has the activities I desire.
Vollyball basketball court
Rock climbing & ice climbing
Pickleball (in Winter too), Ice Skating, walking on the sidewalks in winter to be of the road,
Upgraded parks
More softball tournaments
groomed fat bike trails.
More walking trails
guided tours, more public areas/parks for kids, public pool
Nothing we don't already have access to
improvements to playground at Draver park.
More things for kids and seniors to do.
Outdoor equipment Rental possibilities
Ice rink/skating (in the pavilion)
Possibly archery

135 Responses

Powell Township Parks and Recreation Plan

2026 - 2030

**In order to qualify for Michigan Natural Resources funding
we need to update our current Recreation Plan.**

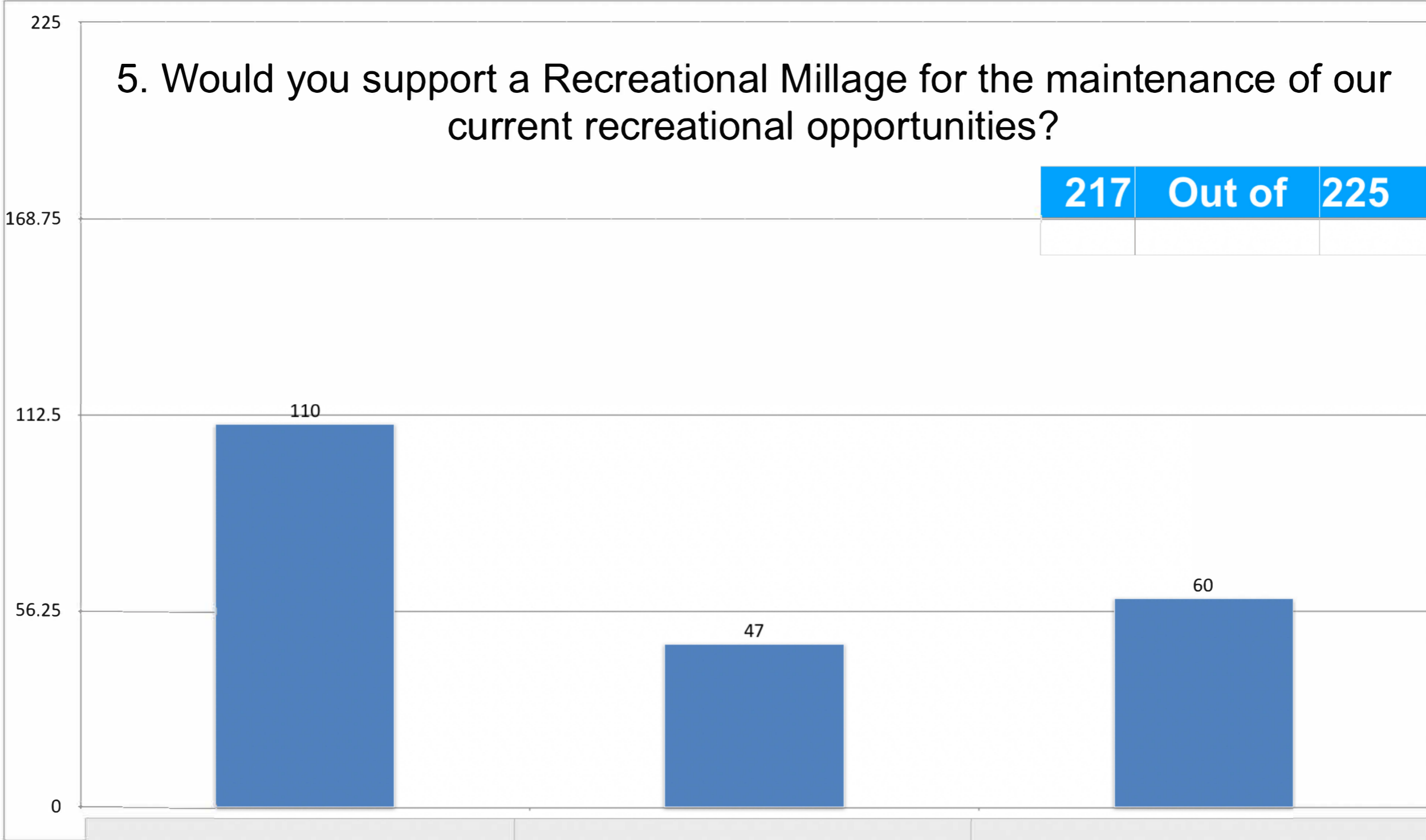
Views	Starts	Submissions	Completion rate	Time to complete
448	261	225	86.2%	04:28

Twenty participants indicated that they did not own or reside in Powell Township. Seven more did not answer the the question.

Twenty seven of those completing the survey were scored separate from residents and property owners on 4 questions.

5. Would you support a Recreational Millage for the maintenance of our current recreational opportunities?

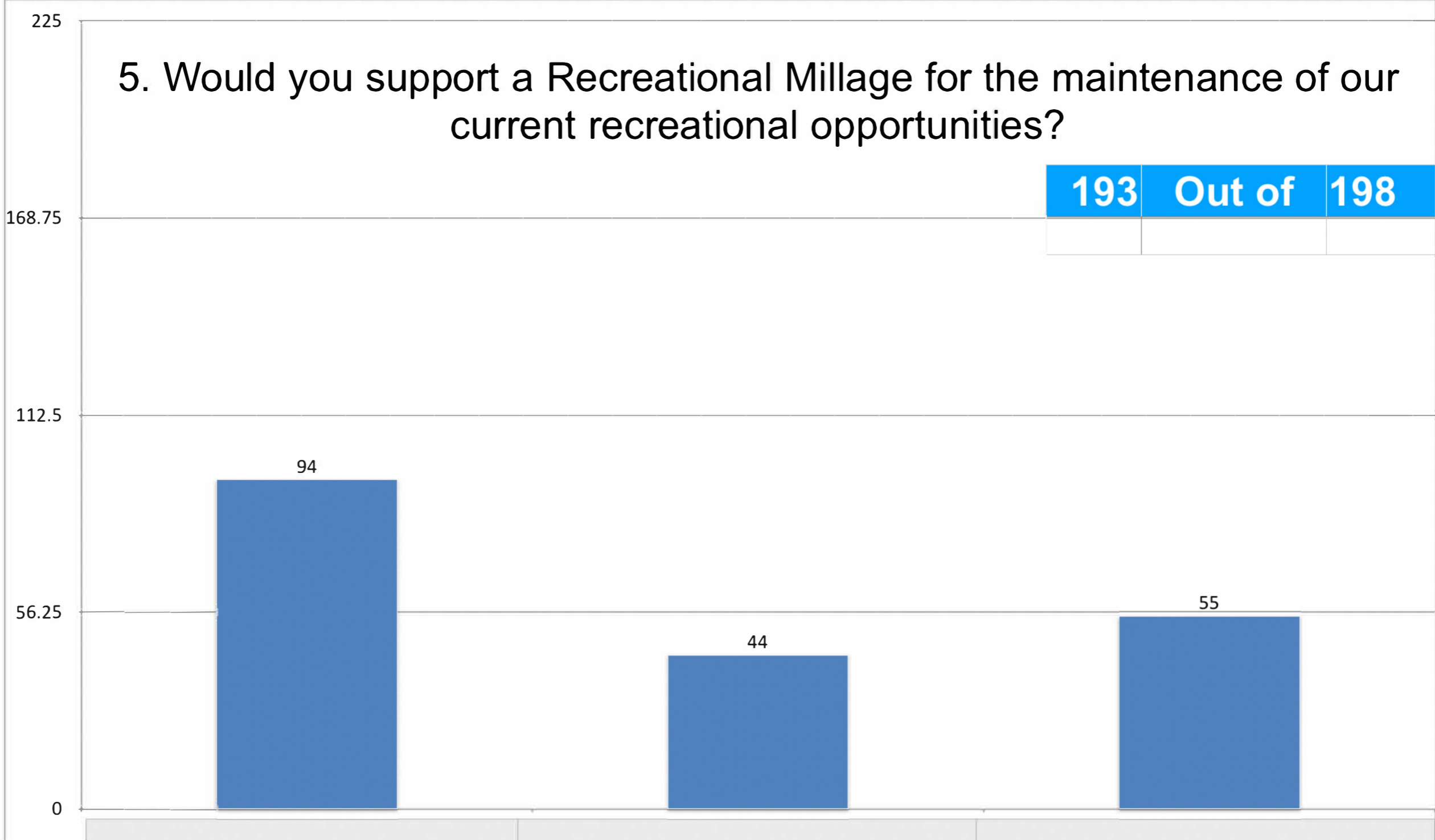
217 Out of **225**



Yes	No	Maybe
110	47	60

5. Would you support a Recreational Millage for the maintenance of our current recreational opportunities?

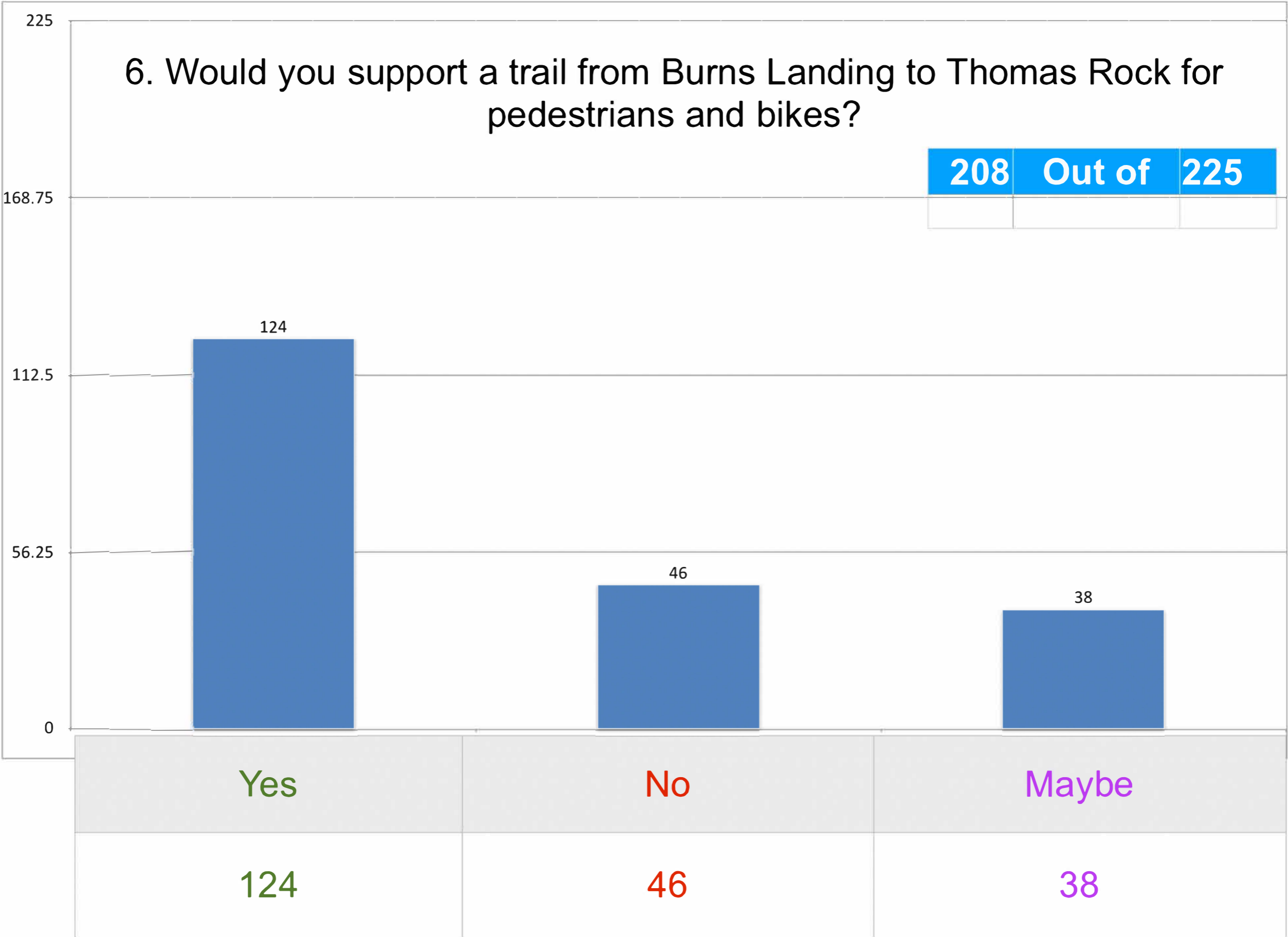
193	Out of	198



Yes	No	Maybe
94	44	55

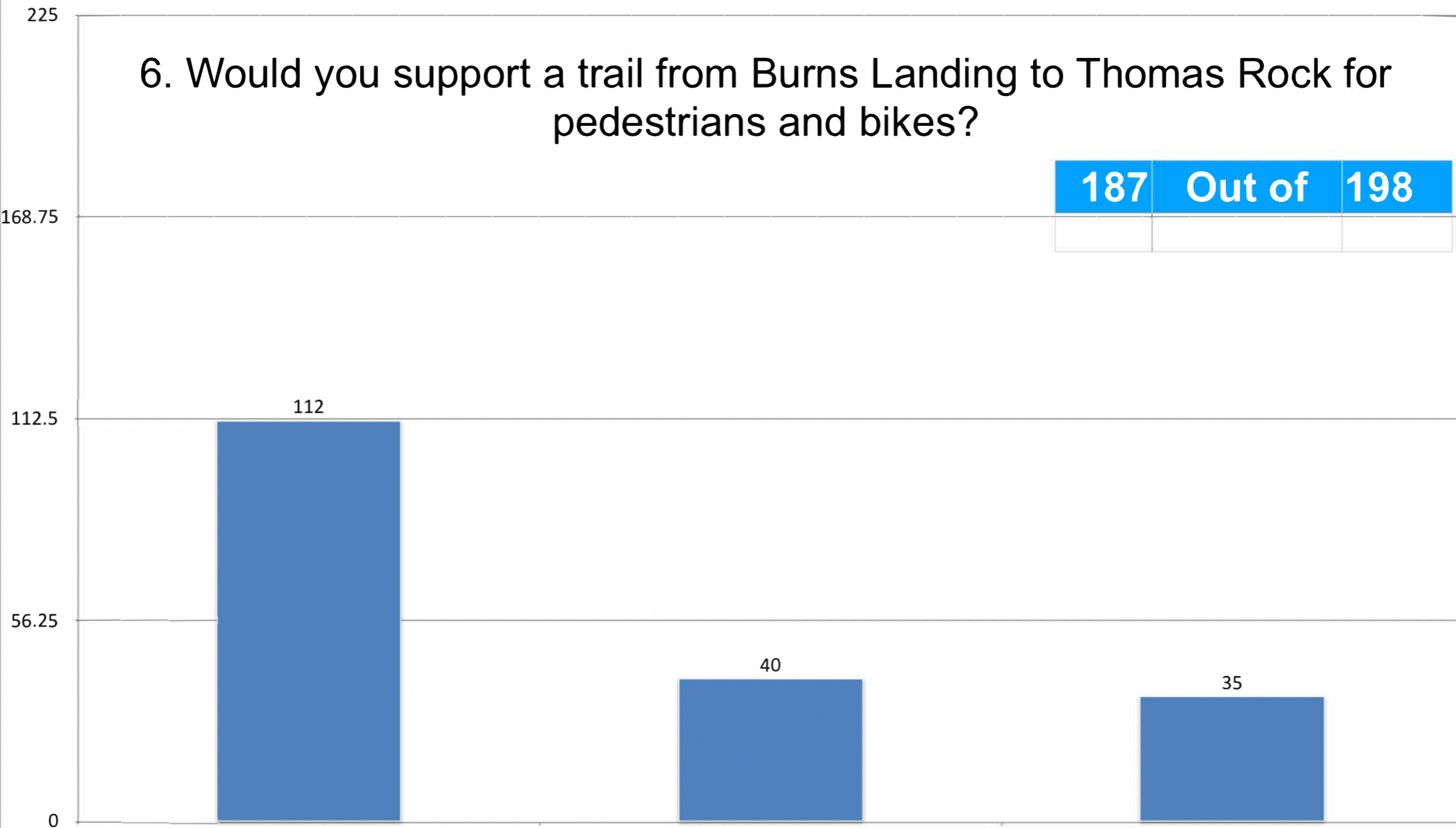
6. Would you support a trail from Burns Landing to Thomas Rock for pedestrians and bikes?

208 Out of **225**



6. Would you support a trail from Burns Landing to Thomas Rock for pedestrians and bikes?

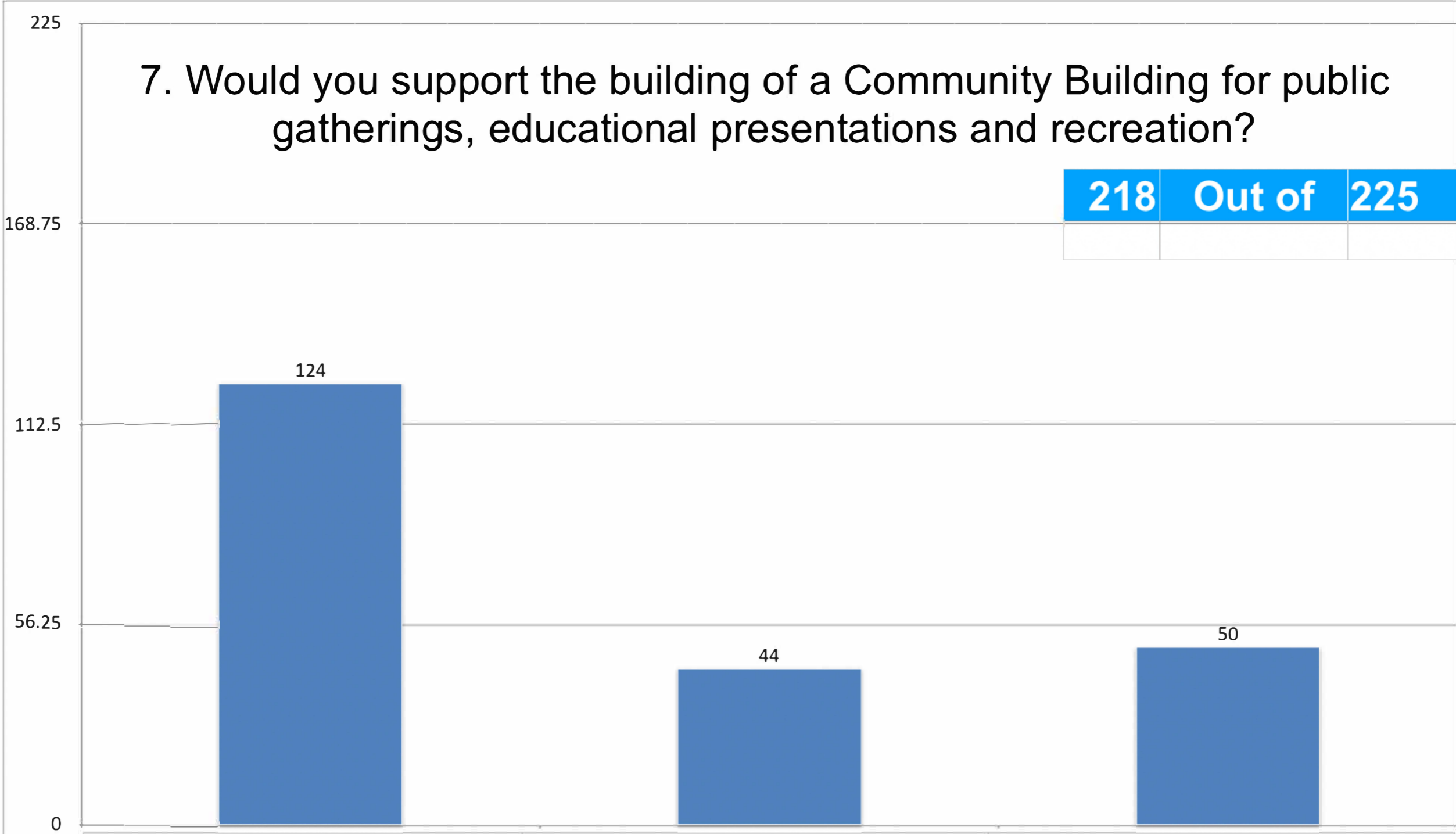
187	Out of	198



Yes	No	Maybe
112	40	35

7. Would you support the building of a Community Building for public gatherings, educational presentations and recreation?

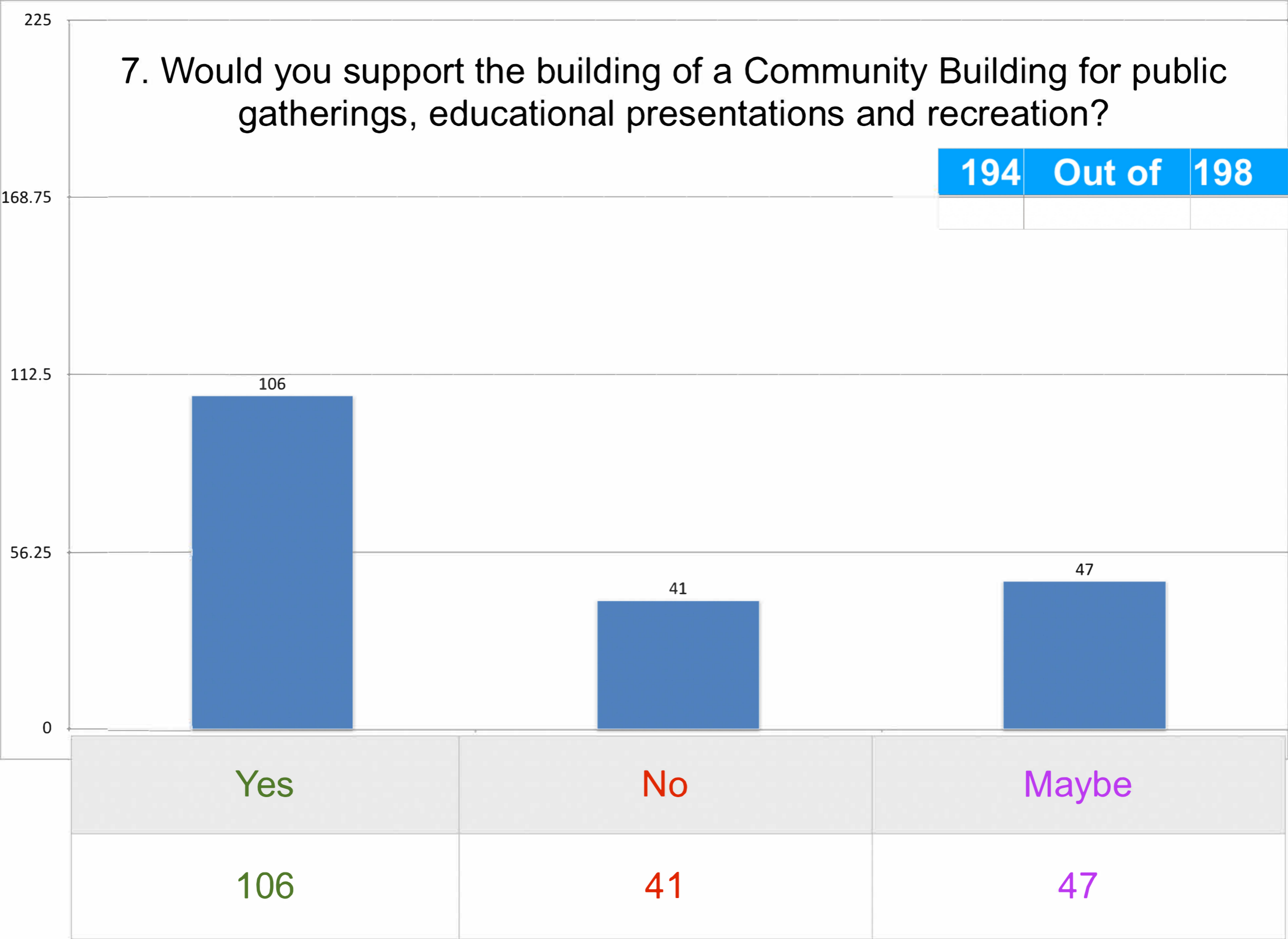
218 Out of **225**



Yes	No	Maybe
124	44	50

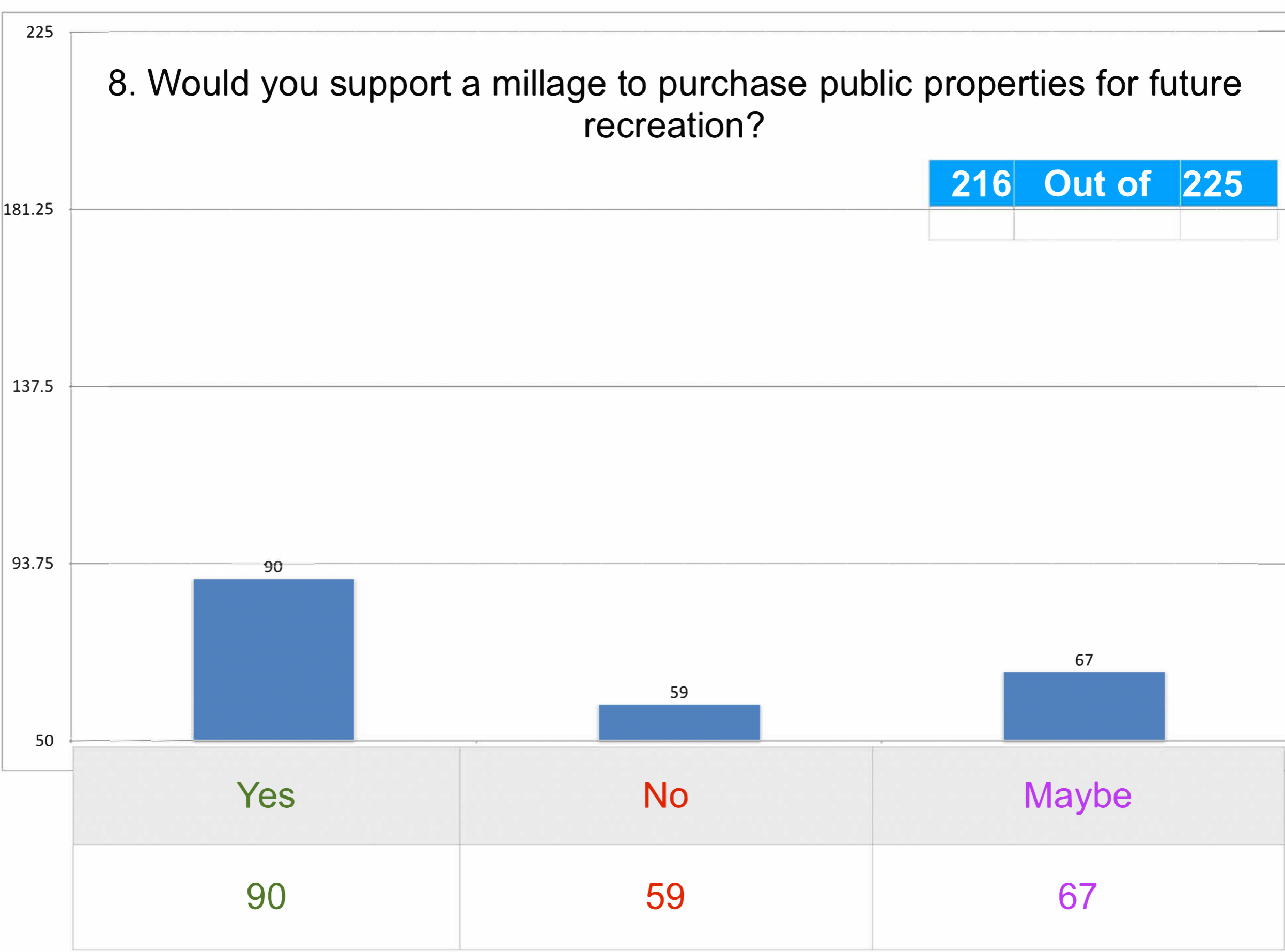
7. Would you support the building of a Community Building for public gatherings, educational presentations and recreation?

194 Out of **198**



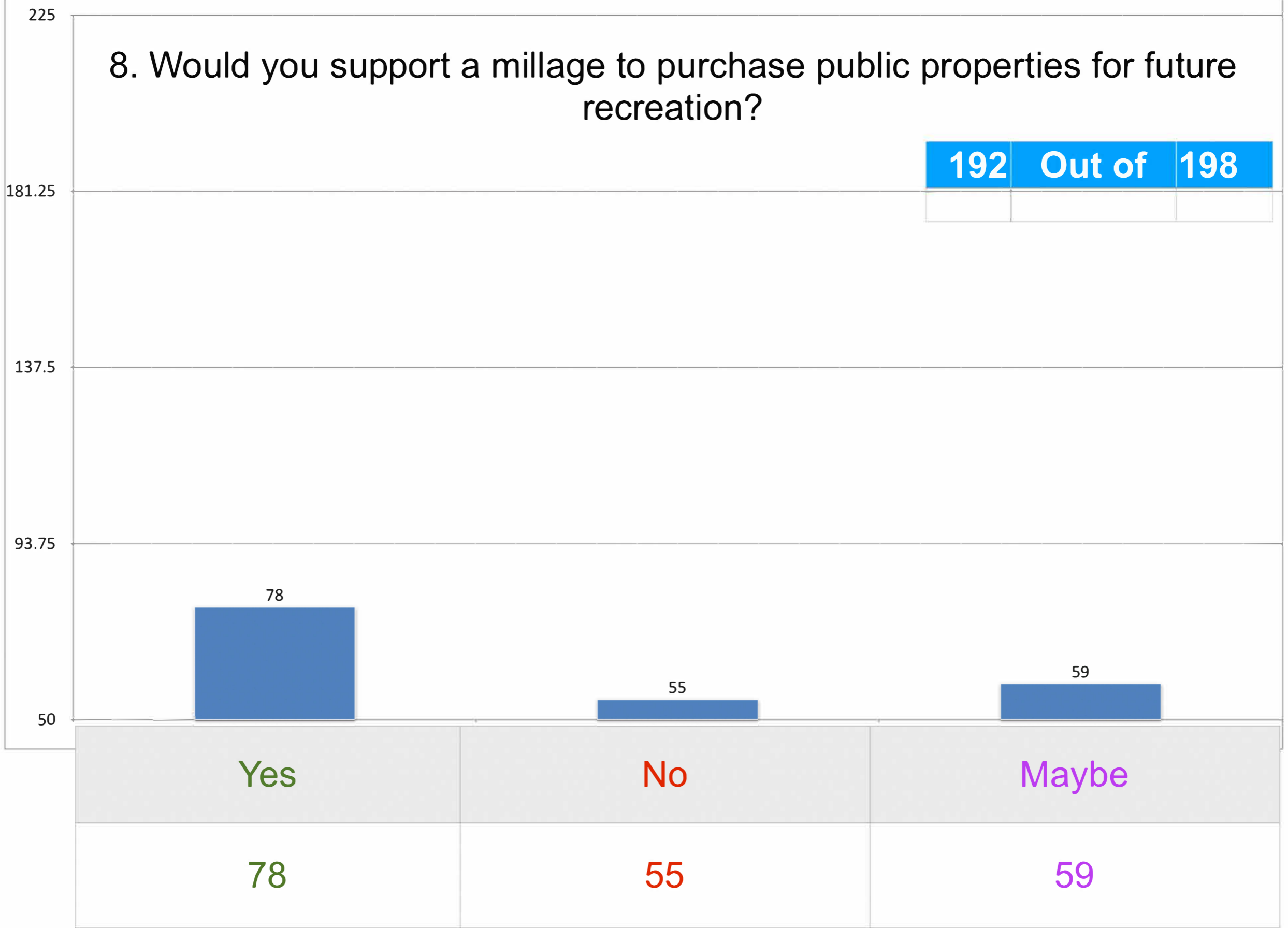
8. Would you support a millage to purchase public properties for future recreation?

216 Out of **225**



8. Would you support a millage to purchase public properties for future recreation?

192 Out of **198**



Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:

I would like to see the LeClair cabin turned into a historic site with involvement from the Marquette Historical Museum, for Perkins park to be plowed so ice fishing could be more accessible, for the land for sale by Burns Landing to be acquired by Powell township, for the wood shacks to be acquired by Powell township. I would love to have a community building that had pickleball, a kitchen, and beautiful community space to hold wedding receptions and showers, graduation parties. More community programs for kids and aging persons.

I think more events hosted in Big Bay would be great! Pickle ball/ tennis lessons for example. I think a pickle ball league would go over well in the summer! I know it's hard in our area because of the 4 wheelers and snowmobiles, but a rail trail would be awesome to hop on from Marquette to Big Bay to bike. We used to ride our bikes to Big Bay or Marquette all the time but it has gotten so busy with tourists that cross not the shoulder that it's scary to do so anymore .

Big Bay is where many of our friends reside, and spend a lot of time there. We visit and explore and spend a lot of time there

No more motor sports! Hiking, biking, quiet activities only. We shouldn't have to pay more taxes for other people to come and make our township unpleasant

Too many gd tourists already visit the area. Don't need even more new trails. Property Taxes out of control for a remote township.

A new hiking trail

Thank you for all your hard work! I really appreciate it

My wife and I own our home in Powell. We support outdoor recreation initiatives when they are focused on our own community. We are not in support of increasing tourism in Powell township. Ultimately we are in favor of keeping land wild. We don't need accessible trails everywhere.

Our Lake Independence property taxes are very high already, so I'm not sure about millage support. Hope our tax dollars are being spent wisely.

Would like to see the Draver Park renovation actually completed within existing budget without seeking more funding

Thank you for all your hard work!!

Commons area with farmers market would be nice

I would like to see the continued push for responsible tourism. I would like people to come visit our beautiful home but also treat it with respect.

Nothing at this time.

Do not over exploit Big Bay for tourism dollars. Big Bay/Powell Township is a great place, over exploitation and too many tourists WILL ruin what makes this area so great.

make a ice ring

If you build it you must maintain it. The recent new infrastructure and recreational opportunities have been great but they have yet to hit a full maintenance cycle. Making sure funding is available to maintain/slightly improve at this stage is more important than adding new.

Clean up the branches and trees at Burns Landing to be able to enjoy the beautiful view of the bay, more parking for Burns Landing (not much but another closer parking to beach would be awesome, better signs of where things are and maps of how to get to different places like the trails for biking/ walking in Big Bay, do more things/ activities to involve kids of ALL ages

Community suggestions or choice in the selection of music in the park events.

Bike night or ATV ride night

Spring or Summer fishing tournament.

I think having a community building with even some recreational activities to do inside for children and adults. Especially for people of all ages to gather in the extremely cold months when being outside so much isn't an option.

Also, where is the funding money that Powell township received to do draver park and when is that going to be not only started but completed.

Thank you for asking what we want to see.

I would really like to see an indoor pool for the winter months. Perhaps tent bay cliffs for the residents

Congratulations on all your good work

Having more lake Superior access would be huge

We have all the parks we need for our small town.

no comment

dirt bike Trall

rc track

your words are to proper

no questions

Educate people to understand the importance of recreation

Golf course or driving range

Thanks for all the hard work!

Work with the DNR to make a better fishing experience in Lake Indendence.

non-motorized recreation is a major contributor to health, mental and physical. I support any non-motorized recreation opportunities, and adaptations for universal access to recreation.

brainstorming a farmers type market

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of our community.

Landings for bird watching on top of the bike trails would be excellent

No need for a community center. We have 2 churches, school, TBI, Baycliff, Township hall, Fire station and 2 parks.

Fish cleaning station at the harbor and more sand removal at boat launch at the harbor

Thank you!!!!!!

Enough money spent on parks and rec. No more taxes for them

Do the RIGHT thing.

I am a long term resident of Big Bay. I answered maybe on some questions because Powell Township is a multi recreational area. Any plan should at least include representation of all the different types of Rec when using tax dollars. I do walking, snowmobiling, boating, and use my atv.

Community library is needed

Thank you for all your hard work. I have noticed a surge in people coming to Squaw Beach (can we get a sign with the new name and pronunciation on it?). Your improvements there have been dramatic and appreciated. It looks like someone cares about our beach area.

Study on community events, recreation infrastructure. This would also identify the economic and community health benefits. The purpose would be to identify which events would provide the most benefit to residents and visitors.

Residents seem to be mainly seniors on fixed incomes that really can't afford any millage increases. Any new recreational facilities etc should be financed by user fees and not added taxes.

Please enter any comments and/or suggestions you have here:

Our family likes the improvements at Burns Landing and the beach! Have enjoyed the new trails to Powells Peak, but need better signage on the trails. Would like access to the Iron River for kayaking or stream fishing.

Powell township already spends too much money on parks & rec.

I appreciate all the work that has been done so far and look forward to what will be happening in the future.

keep up the good work!!

I think the public concerts that have been held in the summer are great and should be supported.

I don't support the use of township vehicles for personal use. That is tax payers money. It's a liability, why should we pay for the gas and maintenance so someone can plow their own driveway on company time and doesn't even homestead in Powell township. It's nice to see the township truck all beat up from personal use.

What type of community building and where. What is the township building used for.

I'd like a focus on recreation for families with young kids and all residents, less focus on things like baseball field that are used only once per year.

It appears to me that a small group of younger more active people are asking the taxpayers to support their activities. The average age of Powell Twp. residents is well over 65 years, most of those people do not hike, bike, snowshoe, ski or play baseball and should not be expected to pay for the activities of the younger minority.

Big Bay is a beautiful place to live and visit

Thanks for all you do

Increasing recreation opportunities enhances tourist visitation bringing income to the township. Worth a millage increase

I think the community has been moving forward and should continue to be able to grow and bring in new families, workers and businesses.

Don't raise taxes

Thank you for the survey.

Did you ever think people might like to have unspoiled wilderness

Keep things simple. Be as multiuse as possible.

Suggest caution raising property taxes. Many residents struggling paying bills. Seasonal residents may have more \$.

Campground at the old halfway ballpark? Or a disc golf course?

Path to thomas rock from burns, will that be on the road or through the forests (paved or gravel)?

Investing money in improving events and facilities for community interaction in Powell Township is a solid choice

Your Parks and Recreation Department does a lot! Thanks. Keep up your great efforts.

charge non residents who use trails, public facilities, ect. There are different ways to do this

I would support a millage, but I do not own property in Powell township. Consider a participation fee / membership / "friends of Powell twp recreation . Many people come to Powell twp chasing waterfalls, boating, snowmobiling and now gravel bike riding ("Crusher") - a part of the race entry fee should be paid to local units of government that provide these natural resources, maintain the trails, and may be assisting in an emergency if needs arise.

Keep providing chances for people to gather, especially in winter. It is easier to gather in the summer, but for winter, a community center that is a big enough public space to hold family gatherings, have basketball/Pickleball/volleyball indoors, be a business incubator for start up businesses Big Bay, house new township government offices to solve the issue of having people there to manage the facility, convert the old townhall to the maintenance facility and Parks and Rec equipment storage and maintenance garage.

The "historical" pathway would go through town and allow people to walk/ride bikes safely to recreation assets, get to the businesses such as Cram's and the ice cream shop, and someday with a community center located to the north of the Fire Station (across from the lumberjack) people would go right by a small business incubator with store front shop and a large multi-purpose space and township offices in the building.

The proposed facility would serve the residents needs to have a public space to gather without having to be at a bar or restaurant, it would provide more opportunities to gather in healthy way. It would support a more diverse entrepreneurial effort by providing a lower risk start-up opportunity, provide a physical space for new business, provide other shopping options for residents such as coffee, healthy food, camp supplies. It would help delineate a small business district in uptown Big Bay(starting at Crams, and ending at the Thunder Bay Inn)

Fish cleaning station at the harbor

Thank you Parks and Rec for all you do!

I would support a community building that included a pool

Big Bay should be a hub for ALL of Powell Township residents to enjoy as a hub of social activity, and this requires high-quality parks that serve multiple purposes and multi-season structures for gathering year-round.

76 Responses

Parks & Recreation Department



PT P&R Survey 2026

225 responses

Big picture

Views

448

Starts

261

Submissions

225

Completion rate

86.2%

Time to complete

04:28

Appendix B



12/08/2025

BUDGET REPORT FOR POWELL TOWNSHIP
Calculations as of 03/31/2026

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23	2022-23	2023-24	2023-24	2023-24	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2025-26	2025-26	2025-26
		ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY	ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY
101-751-566.005	ALL SEASONS TRAILS GRANT				70,000	70,000		70,000	70,000	67,057						
101-751-582.000	MUSIC CONCERT GRANTS															
101-751-674.000	DONATIONS - THOMAS ROCK															
101-751-674.010	DONATIONS - IN KIND				30,000	30,000		30,000	30,000	30,000			200,000	200,000		
101-751-703.000	WAGES	20,000	20,000	8,674	20,000	14,475	9,254	20,000	27,000	24,313	30,000	30,000	13,290	31,500	31,500	16,738
101-751-727.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	200	200	10	100			100	100					100	100	
101-751-728.000	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	1,500	1,500	1,416	1,500	1,900	1,820	2,000	3,000	2,636	3,000	2,183	1,146	3,000	2,954	325
101-751-802.000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,000	3,000	508	3,000			3,000	2,000		3,000	3,436	3,436	3,500	3,500	
101-751-806.000	DUES															
101-751-860.000	TRAVEL					50	35	500	500		400	400		250	250	
101-751-861.000	FUEL					100	85	500	500	310	500	500	194	750	796	796
101-751-921.000	ELECTRIC	1,100	1,100	1,034	1,100	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,700	1,695	1,400	1,781	1,781	3,200	3,200	1,051
101-751-922.000	WATER	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	1,000	1,000	675
101-751-930.000	REPAIRS AND MAINT	500	500	151	500	350	345	1,500	1,500	1,340	3,000	3,000	2,314	5,000	5,000	1,589
101-751-955.000	REV SHORTFALL - ARPA EXPENSES					14,000	10,561	3,500	3,500	4,227	500	500	(1,338)	500	500	
101-751-974.000	EQUIPMENT	500	500	140	500	10,525	10,525	750	750	495	500	500		1,000	1,000	476
101-751-977.000	TRAIL SERVICES	5,000	5,000	1,125	3,000	900	882	3,000	3,000	424	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	(6)
101-751-977.100	DRAVERS PARK - OPERATING	2,000	2,000	1,660	2,000	2,150	2,121	2,500	2,500	2,163	2,500	2,500	596	1,000	1,000	328
101-751-977.200	THOMAS ROCK - OPERATING	2,000	2,000	1,823	2,000	2,000	1,032	2,500	2,500	1,261	3,500	3,500	2,533	3,500	3,500	1,840
101-751-977.300	BURNS LANDING - OPERATING	2,000	2,000	616	2,000	2,000	1,057	2,500	2,500	450	2,500	2,500	771	3,000	3,000	2,918
101-751-977.400	PTRN TRAILS - OPERATING				2,000	1,900	846	2,500	2,500		2,500	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000	(412)
101-751-978.000	BURNS LANDING - GRANT PROJECT	150,000	150,000		151,000	151,000		151,000	151,000	176,004	158,000	158,000	79,416			
101-751-978.002	MDARD GRANT WAGES								3,000	2,040						
101-751-978.100	NATURE TRAILS GRANT EXPENDITURES										900,000					
101-751-978.802	ALL TRAILS GRANT - THOMAS ROCK				100,000	100,000	19,820	83,700	80,700	75,612						
101-751-978.900	DRAVER PARK - SPARK GRANT									11,930		900,000	56,358	1,031,893	831,893	727,740
101-751-978.901	DRAVER PARK-SPARK DON IN KIND													200,000	200,000	
101-751-979.000	FIRE ON THE BAY	5,000	5,000						5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	8,000	
208-751-607.045	USE AND ADMISSION FEES COLLECTION															
208-751-642.000	CONCESSIONS - P&R															
208-751-665.000	INTEREST INCOME	80	80	14			975	20	20	2,973	200	200	6,503	500	500	1,923
208-751-674.000	RAFFLE AND 50/50 INCOME	20,000	20,000	60,301	20,000	20,000	2,853	5,000	5,000	2,543	5,000	5,000	2,179	1,000	1,000	139
208-751-674.010	THOMAS ROCK - BINOCULARS					250	114	250	500	648	700	700	585	600	600	562
208-751-675.010	DONATIONS- SPARK												215			
208-751-675.015	DONATIONS- CONCERT SERIES	3,500	3,500	442	3,500	3,500	382	4,000	4,000	3,884	4,500	4,500	1,628	1,500	1,500	
208-751-675.020	DONATIONS - VETERANS	1,200	1,200		1,200	1,200	11	1,000	1,000	106	1,000	1,000	108	100	100	65
208-751-675.025	DONATIONS - BURNS LANDING	500	500		500	500		500	500	200	500	500				300
208-751-675.027	DONATIONS - DRAVER PARK														1,920	1,920

208-751-675.030	DONATIONS - MUSEUM	500	500		500	500										
208-751-675.035	DONATIONS - STORAGE BUILDING						5,000									
208-751-676.000	BUDGETED USE OF FUND BAL	60,000	60,000		70,000	70,000		5,000	5,000		7,000	7,000		7,000	7,000	
208-751-699.000	TRANSFER IN								10,000	10,000						
208-751-728.000	OPERATIONAL SUPPLIES	2,000	2,000	209	2,000	600	549	2,000	9,000	498	2,000	2,000	925	2,000	2,000	
208-751-730.000	POSTAGE															
208-751-802.000	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,500	4,500		4,500			3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000		3,000	3,000	
208-751-880.000	COMMUNITY PROMOTION	2,500	2,500	774	2,500	1,200	1,129	2,000	2,000	1,291	2,000	2,000	397	2,000	2,000	1,171
208-751-880.005	MUSIC CONCERT SERIES	3,700	3,700		3,700	3,700	751	4,000	7,000	5,384	7,000	7,000	1,982	7,000	7,000	
208-751-880.010	THOMAS ROCK - BINOCULARS					250	68	250	500	389	500	500	351	350	350	273
208-751-880.020	BURNS LANDING					600	587	500	500		500	500		500	500	349
208-751-880.025	DRAVER PARK														1,920	1,920
208-751-881.000	VETERANS MEMORIAL EXPENSE	2,500	2,500		2,500	2,500		1,500	1,500		1,000	1,000	989	1,000	1,000	
208-751-900.000	PRINTING & PUBLISHING	1,500	1,500		1,500	900		500	500		500	500		500	500	
208-751-977.000	PARKS TRAIL SERVICES	60,000	60,000	37,848	70,000	77,200	77,200	8,000	8,000		5,000	5,000		5,000	5,000	
ESTIMATED REVENUES - ALL FUNDS		85,780	85,780	60,757	195,700	195,950	9,335	115,770	126,020	117,411	18,900	18,900	211,218	210,700	12,620	4,909
APPROPRIATIONS - ALL FUNDS		270,400	270,400	56,888	376,300	390,550	140,917	303,600	326,150	318,362	1,141,700	1,141,700	176,541	1,124,543	1,126,463	957,771
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - ALL FUNDS		(184,620)	(184,620)	3,869	(180,600)	(194,600)	(131,582)	(187,830)	(200,130)	(200,951)	(1,122,800)	(1,122,800)	34,677	(913,843)	(1,113,843)	(952,862)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE - ALL FUNDS		1,251,778	1,251,778	1,251,778	1,387,618	1,387,618	1,387,618	1,390,237	1,390,237	1,390,237	1,365,025	1,365,025	1,365,025	1,768,018	1,768,018	1,768,018
FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENTS - ALL FUNDS					(1,905)	(1,905)	(1,905)	(673)	(673)	(673)	10,658	10,658	10,658			
ENDING FUND BALANCE - ALL FUNDS		1,067,158	1,067,158	1,255,647	1,205,113	1,191,113	1,254,131	1,201,734	1,189,434	1,188,613	252,883	252,883	1,410,360	854,175	654,175	815,156

Appendix C





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: (Please select one) [] Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund [] Clean Michigan Initiative
[] Land and Water Conservation Fund [] Recreation Passport [] Bond Fund

GRANTEE: Powell Township

PROJECT NUMBER: RP15-0080 PROJECT TYPE: Recreation Development

PROJECT TITLE: Burn's Landing Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Upgrade existing boardwalk to meet ADA & universal design standards

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for Powell Township, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Levi Ellis), Title (Powell Township Supervisor), Address (101 Bensigner Street), Telephone (906-345-9345 ext. 14), City, State, ZIP (Big Bay, Michigan 49808), and Email (supervisor@powelltownship.org).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Given the type of recreation facility, maintenance is scheduled on an as needed basis.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

There are no restrictions for hours or seasons

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print Levi Ellis	Grantee Authorized Signature 	Date 12-11-25
Please print Sharon Mattis	Witness Signature 	Date 12/11/25

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

BURNS LANDING

HISTORICAL

PARK



This recreation site was funded, in part, by citizens who purchased Michigan's Recreation Passport when renewing their license plates. These funds are used to maintain state and local parks, trails, boat launches, campgrounds, historic sites and other recreational opportunities.





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: (Please select one) [] Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund [] Clean Michigan Initiative
[] Land and Water Conservation Fund [] Recreation Passport [] Bond Fund

GRANTEE: Powell Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF08-104 PROJECT TYPE: Recreation Development

PROJECT TITLE: Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook

PROJECT SCOPE: Development includes a scenic overlook at a natural rock outcrop, providing views of Lake Superior, a nature trail, observation deck, accessible toilets,

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for Powell Township, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Levi Ellis), Title (Powell Township Supervisor), Address (101 Bensigner Street), Telephone (906-345-9345 ext. 14), City, State, ZIP (Big Bay, Michigan 49808), and Email (supervisor@powelltownship.org).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Given the type of recreation facility, maintenance is scheduled on an as needed basis.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?



Thomas Rock Scenic Overlook is never closed to the public

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

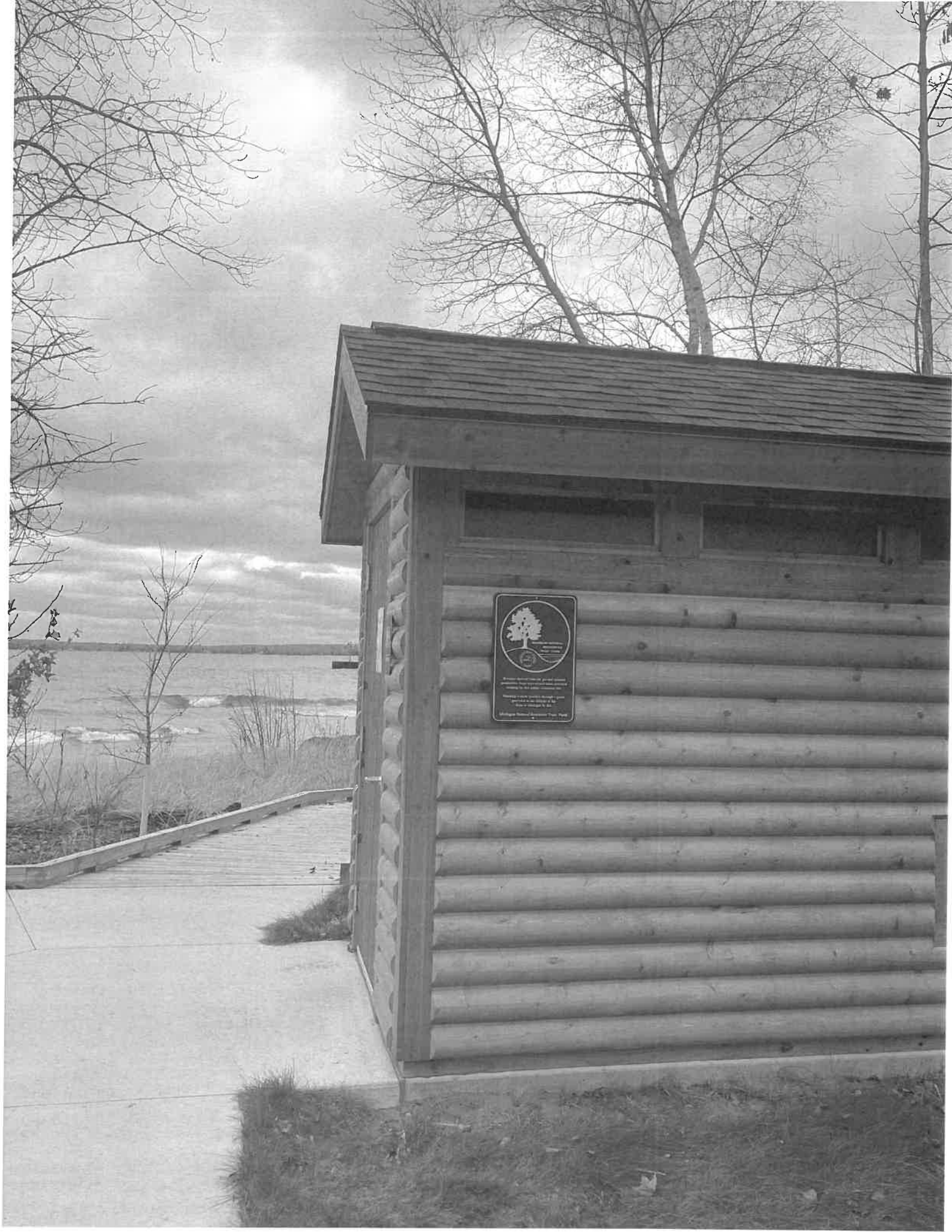
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print Levi Ellis	Grantee Authorized Signature 	Date 12-11-25
Please print Sharon Mattis	Witness Signature 	Date 12/11/25

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**




National Park Service
Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1916



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: (Please select one) [] Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund [] Clean Michigan Initiative
[] Land and Water Conservation Fund [] Recreation Passport [] Bond Fund

GRANTEE: Powell Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF10-075 PROJECT TYPE: Land Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Thomas Rock Nature Area Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 379 acres of forestland to protect wildlife habitat and extend nature trails

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for Powell Township, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Levi Ellis), Title (Powell Township Supervisor), Address (101 Bensigner Street), Telephone (906-345-9345 ext. 14), City, State, ZIP (Big Bay, Michigan 49808), and Email (supervisor@powelltownship.org).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Given the type of recreation facility, maintenance is scheduled on an as needed basis.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Thomas Rock Nature Area is never closed to the public

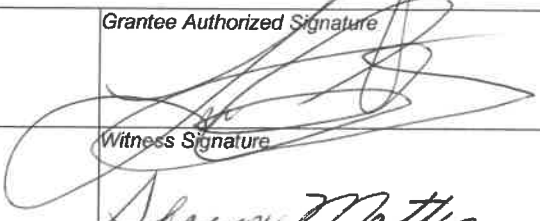
COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty box for comments.

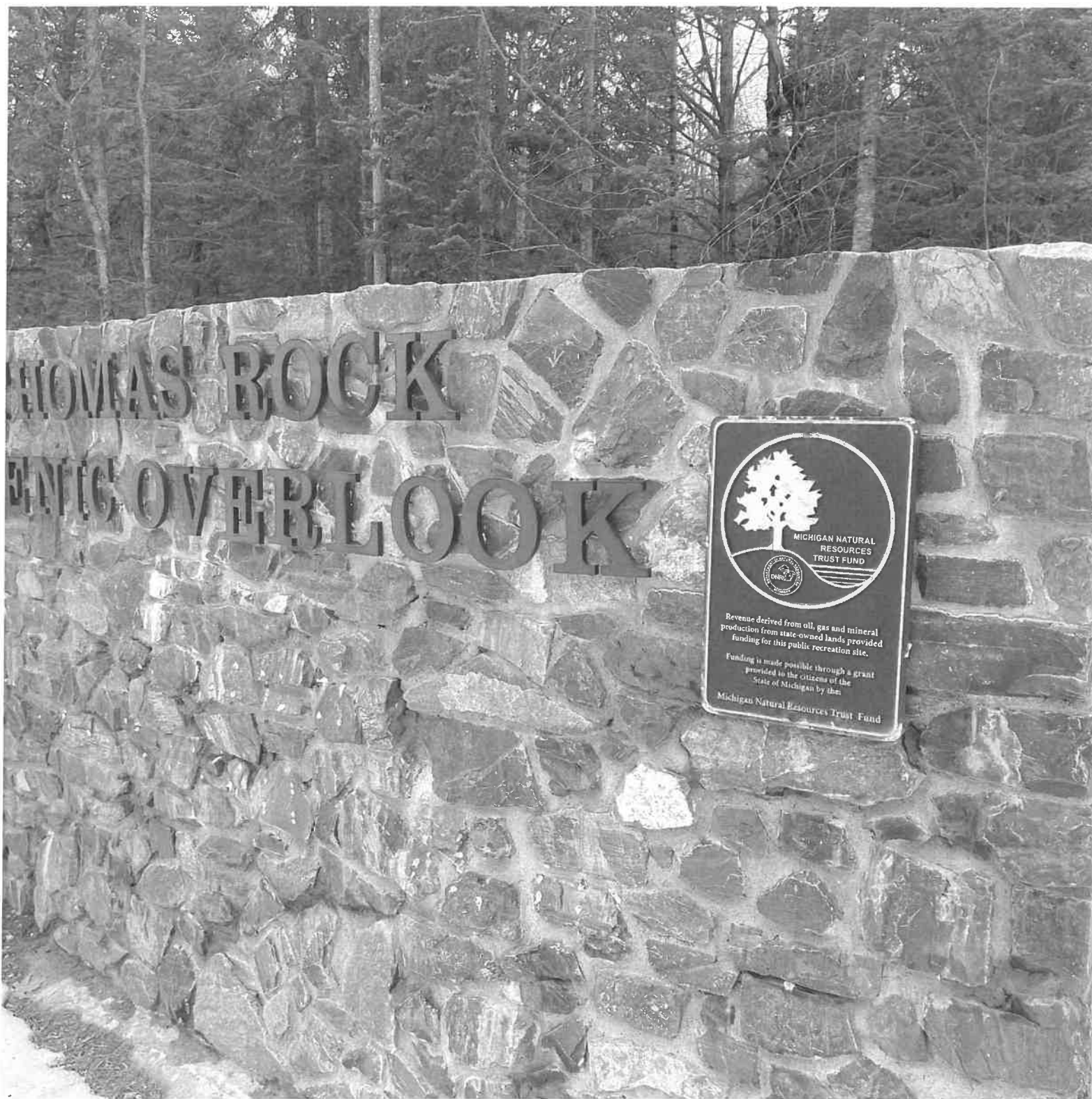
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONTINUED

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print Levi Ellis	Grantee Authorized Signature 	Date 12-11-25
Please print Sharon Mattis	Witness Signature Sharon Mattis	Date 12/11/25

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



THOMAS ROCK
GENIC OVERLOOK


MICHIGAN NATURAL
RESOURCES
TRUST FUND
Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral
production from state-owned lands provided
funding for this public recreation site.
Funding is made possible through a grant
provided to the citizens of the
State of Michigan by the
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund